

Time is not on their side in ministry to seamen

By Marv Knox

PORTLAND, Ore. — Mark and Cathy Spain never have enough time.

The Mississippi natives minister to seamen on grain freighters anchored at docks in the Portland/Vancouver, Wash., area. But the ships only stay from two days to slightly more than a week — not much time to overcome language and culture barriers, build friendships and share spiritual truths.

Their work is "frustrating, because we can't build strong relationships," says Cathy, who, along with Mark, is a US-2 missionary appointed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

"We just get to know somebody, and they're gone," she explains. "Maybe they'll never come back."

That's a tough thought to consider for Mark, son of Alvina Spain, a member of Pass Road Baptist Church in Gulfport, and Cathy, whose parents are Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Roberts, members of Woolmarket Baptist Church, outside Biloxi. Both are graduates of William Carey College in Hattiesburg.

To overcome the time difficulty, the couple concentrates on an interest individualized ministry while seamen are in port.

On days when crews are busy, it's usually best for Mark to hang around the ships and be ready to talk. During slower times, Mark and Cathy lead excursions to the zoo, the Columbia River Gorge or a shopping mall. And Cathy sometimes prepares food to host the seamen in their apartment, or they open up the Baptist Seamen's Center for a time of games and refreshments.

That's just a way to get acquainted, Mark says.

"If we later develop something with crewmen on a ship, I'm with them as much as possible. . .," he says. "I tell them I'm their host and that I want to help them all I can."

Then, as they get to know each other, he tries to "single out different ones and talk," he explains, noting those are the times when conversation finally surpasses superficial niceties.

Through their words and actions, the Spains want the seamen to "know we love them," Mark says. "Then we want them to know why we love them. That's because of Jesus, and we always express that to them, explaining what He can do for them."

But results of their compressed-time ministry are hard to measure; sometimes they seem nonexistent. Yet signs of progress are perceptible: Mr. Mun, a Christian from Korea, wept for

joy the first time he attended church with them. Mr. Han, a professed agnostic and also a Korean, sent them a letter expressing his hope to "join your believer's country," a reference to Mark's explanation that he must believe in Jesus to receive salvation.

The significance of such successes stretches beyond the seamen the Spains meet, making them foreign missionaries on U.S. soil, claims Harold Hitt, director of language missions for the Northwest Baptist Convention.

"International seamen potentially are the greatest missionary force in the world," Hitt explains. "There are literally hundreds of thousands of them always on the move, going from country to country at no cost to any mission board. Not only can they spread the gospel from one place to another, but they can take it back to their own countries."

While the Spains consider it a "privilege" to serve in such a capacity, they're a bit frustrated because they're running out of time. Their two-year US-2 term will end late this

summer, and Mark will concentrate on seminary. But the seamen's ministry is going to "die" if people aren't geared to follow up on a volunteer basis.

"A lot of people seem interested, but they're afraid of possible language barriers, scared of the unknown," says Mark, explaining why more volunteers have not stepped forward.

To prevent calamity when the couple's term is up, Mark is looking for people to take over the ministry. He thinks either seminary students or retired people would be ideal leaders, and he believes committed families who support the work can make it thrive.

Although they can't see the future, they're "hopeful" someone else will take the opportunity to enjoy the work they've shared for almost two years.

"We've fallen in love with these people and this work," Mark says. "This experience has taught us that. . . we'll be working with internationals for a long time to come."

(Knox is assistant news editor at the HMB.)



Cathy Spain doesn't restrict herself to ministry to seamen in the Portland area. She also works to help Hmong refugees from Laos make homes for themselves in their new country. Mark teaches a Sunday School class at Metropolitan Baptist Church in Portland for internationals.

'Watch' is theme for WMU meeting

LOS ANGELES (BP) — Southern Baptist missions work in the nation's most populous state — California — will be featured at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, June 7-8, in the Petree Room of the Los Angeles Convention Center.

The meeting also will feature the election of two national officers, a president to succeed Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory of Danville, Va., and a recording secretary to succeed Mrs. William Ellis of Shelbyville, Ky. Both women will complete their sixth year in office.

"Watch" is the theme for the national meeting of the 1.1 million member auxiliary to the SBC.

The opening session, at 5 p.m., June 7, will feature a keynote address by Charles Bryan, vice president of overseas operations at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Others on the Sunday program will be Stanley O. White, director of missions with the Los Angeles Southern Baptist Association; Cherry Y. K. Chang, Asian church worker for the Southern Baptist General Convention of California; and Francis M. Dubose, professor of missions at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

Special music will be performed by the Children's Choir of the Mandarin Baptist Church, Los Angeles; the

Youth Chorus for the First Filipino Baptist Church, Los Angeles; and Holly Jeanne Mercadante, San Bernardino, Calif.

The WMU annual meeting will include three sessions on Monday, June 8.

The morning session at 9:45 will focus on Southern Baptist work among Asians in San Francisco. Keynoting the session will be ministers from Nineteenth Avenue Baptist Church in San Francisco: William H. Smith, pastor; Nobuo Kuriyama, pastor, Japanese mission; Henry Mu, pastor, Mandarin Baptist Church; and Nga Nguyen, pastor of the Vietnamese mission.

Also featured during the morning service will be Catherine Walker, foreign missionary to Indonesia, now special assistant to the president of the (Continued on page 2)

Italian quake victims say 'grazie' for Baptist aid

SENERCHIA, Italy (BP) — "We don't know who sent the money for all of this," the woman said, pointing to the prefabricated community dining room and

food boxes being passed to a crowd of more than 200 people, "but you know, and you can thank them for us."

The woman was only one of many who expressed her "grazie," or "thank you" for Baptist help after the Nov. 23 earthquake which devastated many small towns in southern Italy, says Helen Ruchti, Southern Baptist missionary press representative for Italy. "They appreciate help; they still need it," she said.

Southern Baptists, through the Federation of Evangelical Churches, have given more than \$300,000 in hunger and relief funds to help the earthquake victims.

Much of the Southern Baptist aid has been used in Senerchia in a food distribution project that has fed 200 to 600 people daily since late November. Early this year a prefabricated building became the dining facility, replacing the tent which had been ripped apart by strong winds.

The six-month food project in the largely agrarian population of Senerchia is scheduled to be phased out in May after harvest, Ruchti says. Southern Baptist missionaries in Italy have voted to use some remaining funds to start farm cooperatives for stricken farmers. Plans are already under way to build stalls for 20 cows donated by Swiss farmers.

The building project is part of the federation's rehabilitation plans for this poorest section of Italy. They have appealed for \$7.5 million for prefabricated structures for some of the thousands still homeless five months after the quake.

The federation already has taken advantage of a bankruptcy action in

LOS ANGELES (BP) — "Our Bold Response . . . Now!" will be the theme for the 1981 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 9-11 in the Los Angeles Convention Center.

Bailey E. Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., and president of the 13.6 million-member denomination, will preside over the 124th annual session of the 136-year-old denomination.

President Ronald Reagan has been invited to address the convention, but has not responded to the invitation.

Others expected to address the gathering of messengers include Smith, who will deliver the annual president's address; James Monroe, pastor of First Baptist Church of Fort Walton Beach, Fla., who will preach the convention sermon, and Perry Sanders, pastor of First Baptist Church of Lafayette, La., who will deliver the closing message.

In between will be reports from the SBC Executive Committee and other national agencies and institutions, business, resolutions and election of officers. Smith, who was elected to head the nation's largest non-Catholic denomination in the 1980 annual meet-

ing in St. Louis, Mo., is eligible to be returned to a traditional second one-year term.

A. Douglas Watterson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Knoxville, Tenn., and chairman of the convention order on business committee, said: "The main thrust of the program is our concern that we will have a great conciliatory convention."

Watterson noted the committee "attempted to select persons from every quarter of the convention and those we felt would minister to us all. We consciously avoided any theological slant and put the program together with the hope and the prayer we would have a great healing convention."

He added the committee acceded to a request by Kenneth Chafin, pastor of South Main Baptist Church of Houston, Texas, and chairman of trustees at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, that chairmen of trustees of the six seminaries be given time to report to messengers on the "stewardship of trustees."

The request grew out of questions about doctrinal integrity and attacks on the trustees, administration and faculty of the six institutions.

"We expanded the seminary report time from 15 minutes to 40 minutes and scheduled them during an evening session," Watterson said.

He also added that contingency plans have been made in case President Reagan is unable to address the convention. "We hope he will be able to come, however," Watterson said.

Pastors to hear seminarians' testimonies

LOS ANGELES (BP) — The presidents of the six Southern Baptist seminaries will speak during the 1981 meeting of the SBC Pastors' Conference in the Los Angeles Convention Center, June 7-8.

The Pastors' Conference is one of several meetings preliminary to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, scheduled June 9-11, in the LA Convention Center.

Jim Henry, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla., and president of the Pastors' Conference, said he asked the presidents to appear together and to give short presentations during the Monday afternoon segment of the program.

"I asked them to give their testimonies," Henry said. "I want them to give a brief account of their conversion experience, their call to the ministry and to tell of the greatest revival they have ever been in."

The six presidents, who will share a 30-minute time slot, are Duke McCall, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (Continued on page 2)

Lottie gifts soar to record

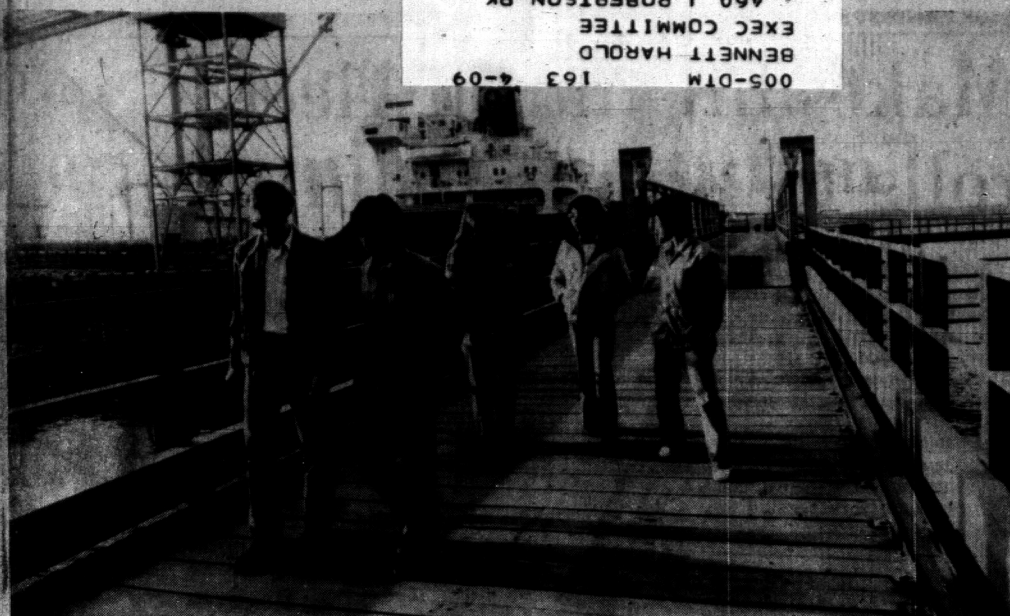
TAMPA, Fla. (BP) — Receipts from the 1980 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering reached a record \$41,467,719 with more than six weeks remaining before books are closed on Southern Baptists' annual special offering for foreign missions.

The figure represents 92.2 percent of the \$45 million goal.

Late totals, revised even during the board meeting as later word was received from Nashville, Tenn., were reported as the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board concluded its three-day April meeting. At this same time last year, 92.4 percent of 1979's \$40.5 million goal had been received. The 1979 offering topped its goal by reaching \$40,597,113.

Shortly before getting the late report, the board had allocated almost \$4.3 million of this offering for capital needs overseas, with another \$700,000 expected to be voted at a later meeting. More than \$750,000 of the funds had been released early in the year for projects so urgent they couldn't wait (Continued on page 3)

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The ports of Portland, Ore., and Vancouver, Wash., are homes away from home for US-2 missionaries Mark and Cathy Spain. Some 50,000 seamen pass through the area every year, and the Spains attempt to meet the needs of as many of them as they can. (BP Photos by Mark Sandlin).

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L.A. Convention

Chairman calls for 'conciliatory' meet

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He added the committee acceded to a request by Kenneth Chafin, pastor of South Main Baptist Church of Houston, Texas, and chairman of trustees at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, that chairmen of trustees of the six seminaries be given time to report to messengers on the "stewardship of trustees."

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Committee named, boards nominated

When Adrian Rogers was elected president of the Southern Baptist convention in 1979, he appointed a committee on committees for the St. Louis convention in 1980.

That committee on committee nominated people to be elected by messengers to serve on the committee on boards.

That committee on boards elected in St. Louis is nominating the members of boards and agencies to be voted on at Los Angeles this June.

Mississippians nominated for service on the various boards and agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention are William W. Durr, layman, Clinton for the Home Mission Board; William E. Hardy, Jr., Columbus, minister of education at First Church, for the Sunday School Board;

Jerry S. Lee, layman, for the Sunday School Board; James Hefflin, pastor, First Baptist Church, Greenville, for Southwestern Seminary; Robert Shir-

(Continued on page 2)



Campers on mission dish up fellowship

Edna and Sam Green of Philadelphia, dish up the 30 gallons of beef stew they made during the Campers on Mission retreat held recently at Boone's Farm, near Columbia. The spring retreat which attracted about 100 people in all types of camping rigs, included worship services, testimonies of missions

experiences, and discussion of future mission involvement. The campers ate two group meals — the stew, and pancakes the next morning. For information on joining Campers on Mission, write the Mississippi Chapter president, Thurman Boone, Jr., Route 1, Jay, Miss., 39641.

(Tim Nicholas photo)

Retreat cancelled

The Mississippi Baptist Pastors' and Wives Retreat at Camp Zion, April 27-29, has been cancelled, according to Leon Emery, retreat organizer.

Couple serves Christian Service Corps

Frank and Zula Caperton of Noxapater Baptist Church wrote the Home Mission Board last winter offering to take their camper to a pioneer mission post to help with some project.

Christian Service Corps coordinator, Will Wilson phoned in October asking if they could go immediately to a spot in Wyoming that had had 18 inches of snow the week before.

With the assurance that highway crews kept the roads clear, the Capertons, along with Mrs. Caperton's sister, Mae Moon, trekked to Medicine Bow, Wyoming, where the Medicine Bow Baptist Church was meeting in two mobile trailers.

Ten members had raised \$10,000 and borrowed another \$40,000 to build the church. They were busing in children and running 30-35 in Sunday School.

Three groups of Buildings for Christ had framed up the building prior to the Caperton's arrival. The two women put in the insulation and the three put up the 12-foot sheets of sheetrock.

The Capertons, members of Campers on Mission, said they are ready to go again.

Ministry to elderly is meet topic

"Development of Local Church and Community Programs for the Elderly" is the title of a workshop to be presented May 1 at the Mississippi Gerontological Society Second Annual Conference at the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Park Campus.

The workshop, led by Joseph Dancy, Jr., of the National Council on Aging, will consider such topics as the biblical basis of aging, the theology of aging, the elderly as a resource, and programs and services for the elderly.

Dancy, an American Baptist, has been a consultant in gerontology on several projects and is author of the book, *The Black Elderly: A Guide for Practitioners*.

The workshop will be held May 1, 2:00-4:30 p.m. The workshop fee is \$15. For more information, contact Sara Martin, conference vice president, (601) 981-2611.

Ashkelon, Israel — A new Hebrew Christian hymnal, the first to contain only indigenous songs, has been published in Israel. The 26 hymns in "Come Before Him" resulted from an on-going series of workshops on Messianic music.

Pastors to hear seminarians' testimonies

(Continued from page 1)

nary; Landrum Leavell, New Orleans; Milton Ferguson, Southeastern Seminary; William Pinson, Midwestern Seminary; William Pinson, Golden Gate Seminary; and Russell Dilday, Southwestern Seminary.

Henry said the program theme is "We Would See Jesus," and is divided into segments emphasizing the pastor's home, his ministry, the church he serves and the world.

"I believe the pastor is the key to the convention, to the church, to the association, to his family and to the world. Our agenda is focused on encouraging him," Henry said.

Henry said he does not think the Pastors' Conference will "set the agenda for the convention," but added he "hopes our theme will make the convention a powerful week of encouragement."

Bailey Smith, SBC president, will deliver a welcome to the SBC at the conclusion of the program, but will not preach. "I felt he had his hands so full with the president's message and trying to lead the convention that I did not ask him to preach; I did not want to put that burden on him," Henry said.

Two former SBC presidents — Adrian Rogers of Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, Tenn., and W. A. Criswell of First Baptist Church of Dallas — will preach major sermons.

Others scheduled to preach are Bill Bennett, First Baptist Church of Fort Smith, Ark.; Calvin Miller of Westside Baptist Church, Omaha, Neb.; Junior Hill, an evangelist from Hartselle, Ala.; Jess Moody of First Baptist Church of Van Nuys, Calif.

Also Richard Jackson of North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.; Fred Wolfe of Cottage Hill Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala.; Harold O'Chester of Allendale Baptist Church in Austin, Texas; John Bisagno of First Baptist Church of Houston; and Arthur Blessitt, an evangelist from West Hollywood, Calif.

Music will be coordinated by Ragan Vandegriff III, minister of music at the Orlando church.

Hamburg, Germany (EP) The Executive Council of the German Baptist Union decided at its recent meeting in Hamburg to adhere to a resolution it passed in 1974 not to ordain women as pastors. However, the council emphasized that the "ministry of women with a theological education" was "desirable and possible" within the Union.

Makeshift transit fleet rolls to Birmingham need

By Marv Knox
BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Birmingham Jefferson County Transit Authority collapsed under financial strain in February, but a makeshift fleet of buses and vans from black Baptist churches rolled in to help thousands of residents get to and from work.

The public transit system — some \$800,000 in debt — shut down amidst administrative and legislative squabbles over funding responsibilities. Mayor Richard Arrington then called on clergymen and "interested persons" to provide stopgap service for at least some of the 11,000 riders who depended on the buses for 30,000 trips a day.

Almost immediately, church leaders had the Emergency Volunteer Transit System (EVTS) — 16 vans and buses — on the streets, carrying riders to and from downtown.

While officials bickered, the clergymen succeeded, because they ignored credit and blame and sought a solution, most observers agree.

"We realized we had an emergency. People were getting hurt, and churches had to do something to help," explained Jack Washington, white director of special ministries for Birmingham Baptist Association and co-chairman of the committee which directs EVTS.

West End maids who crossed town for \$16 to \$20-a-day jobs were being forced to pay half their wages for taxi fares or to opportunistic van owners, Washington said. And a young blind man was told, "Don't worry; don't come back," when he reported he was having trouble getting to work without regular buses.

Although the tiny EVTS fleet couldn't duplicate all the routes of the public buses, organizers geared it to reach as many people as possible.

"We examined the transit routes of the city and looked for the heaviest concentration of riders in every quadrant," said Washington, explaining five major routes were set up to carry people without charge to and from their jobs.

During a recent week, EVTS vehicles carried 1,850 passengers and logged 3,541 miles.

More people were not transported because more buses weren't on the streets. So far, only black Baptist churches have provided buses and vans for the effort.

Committees

(Continued from page 1)

ley, pastor, Parkway Baptist Church, Tupelo, Southeastern Seminary; Roy Raddin, director of missions, Washington County, American Seminary Commission; Russell Bush, Jr., layman, Columbia, denominational calendar committee; Clark McMurray, pastor, First Baptist Church, Pascagoula, Executive Committee, for re-election; and Kent Wyatt, layman, Cleveland, Southern Seminary, for re-election.

The two Mississippians named to the new committee on committees by Bailey Smith, who succeeded Rogers as SBC president, are Larry Black, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Jackson; and Robert Eustice, a layman from Biloxi.

Brotherhood Commission suit filed

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — A 43-year-old female secretary for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission filed a \$3 million lawsuit April 9 in federal court in Memphis against the commission, three of its executives, and the Southern Baptist Convention, charging sexual harassment and defamation of reputation.

Barbara (Mrs. Robert) Minor, a nine-year employee of the Brotherhood Commission, also named as defendants James H. Smith, commission executive director; Norman Godfrey, associate executive director, and David Haney, director of the Baptist men's division.

As an employee of the Baptist men's division, Minor contended Haney declined to promote her to division level secretary last summer after she refused to respond to what she described as a request for sexual favors on behalf of a friend.

The suit contends Haney, Godfrey and Smith made public statements questioning Minor's mental stability and morality, causing her grave embarrassment and humiliation.

The suit alleges the defendants are employed by the Southern Baptist Convention in various positions at the Brotherhood Commission and that the defendants are officials, representatives, agents, servants or employees of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Speaking for the commission, Smith denied the charges, explaining that he, his staff and trustees had tried for six months to corroborate the sexual harassment claim but found no basis.

Minor filed a similar complaint in September 1980 with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. After hearings, the EEOC took no position in the case and issued Minor, at her request, a letter of right to sue.



The collapse of Birmingham's public bus system last month left thousands of riders with no way to get to work. Fortunately, a group of local clergymen formed the Emergency Volunteer Transit System and put 16 church vans and buses on the streets to help people get to and from work. (BP Photo by Paul Obregon)

Washington reports insurance is a big problem for most white churches. "Some policies are written so tightly that they say the church can transport people to a religious experience and back and no more," he said.

"So what we're asking churches to do is re-examine their insurance policies, consider the need, and — even if it costs more — change the policies so their buses can join the EVTS fleet," he said.

The black churches involved in the effort aren't worrying with that obstacle, reported George Cook, black pastor of Mt. Ararat Baptist Church and the other EVTS steering committee co-chairman. "They've got the same kind of insurance the white churches have; they're just taking the risk," Cook explained.



This is the residence of the camp manager, Dan West, of Central Hills Baptist Retreat. Now completed, the residence is one of several parts of the facilities which will be dedicated at services April 25. The services will be held at Central Hills at 2 p.m. Central Hills is on Highway 19 near Kosciusko. The public is invited.

Educators plan sessions on equipping for the 80's

LOS ANGELES (BP) — "Equipping for the Exciting Eighties" is the theme for the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association, which will meet June 7-8, at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles.

The meeting of the SBREA is one of the Southern Baptist Convention at Los Angeles Convention Center June 9-11.

"We want to help our membership see the opportunities that are ours in the 1980s," said J. Roger Skelton, professor of religious education at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., and SBREA president.

The equipping aspect will feature focus of the minister of education, the family and the church, Skelton said.

"The areas of our concern are the minister, his relationship with himself, with Christ, with the church and to the ministry in which he is engaged," Skelton said. "We also are concerned about the family and will emphasize the family of the education minister and the problems and strains involved. We also are thinking of the equipping of the church to meet the challenges of the Eighties."

Key speakers include Grady C. Cothen, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn.; Reginald M. McDonough, associate executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville; Edward B. Lindaman, president emeritus of Whitworth College in Spokane, Wash.; and William E. Hull, pastor of First Baptist Church of Shreveport, La.

Other program personalities include Glen Paden, assistant executive director of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California in Fresno and Ernest E. Mosley, executive secretary of the Illinois Baptist State Association, Springfield.

Coming from the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville are Joe W. Hinkle and Douglas Anderson of the family ministry department; F. Marvin Myers, church management consultant, and Crawford Howell, manager of the Broadman sales department.

Also participating are F. Daniel Boling Jr., associate professor of religious

The entire issue of involvement in EVTS is a "matter of desire," Washington admitted. "The poor, mostly black, are the ones being hurt. And the black churches have taken this problem seriously. They realize no buses means no transportation, no jobs, no food."

Although local and state government officials are examining Birmingham's transit problem and the federal government has provided some funds to help decrease debts, the official shutdown could last until October, when a new fiscal year begins and operating funds are available.

But as long as the siege lasts and EVTS funds hold up, the church buses and vans will continue to roll, and Washington hopes that will signal a message to Birmingham.



Central Hills dedication set

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education, and Max Lyall, associate professor of church music, at Golden Gate Seminary.

Michel and David Russell, musicians from San Diego, and Lavonne Brown, pastor of First Baptist Church of Norman, Okla., will provide worship services before each session.

Also scheduled are the Covenant Players, a group from Reseda, Calif., featuring Arthur Alberts, Douglas Beckman, Patricia Morris and Sharilyn Stekete.

WMU meeting

(Continued from page 1)

Foreign Mission Board; and Judy Rice, executive director of the Alaska WMU.

Special music will be performed by the New Mount Calvary Baptist Church choir of Los Angeles and by soloist Flota D. Jordan, Norwalk, Calif.

The afternoon session at 2 p.m. will highlight Southern Baptist work among California ethnic people. Speakers include Lonnie Chavez, director of the language missions department of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California; Fresno; Khalil (Charlie) Hanna, who works with Arabic-speaking people in Santa Anna; and Theo Patnaik, who works with internationals in Clovis.

Also during the afternoon session Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the WMU, will report on the work of the WMU executive board.

Special music will be performed by the Church Choir of Berendo Street Baptist Church in Los Angeles, and soloist Marva Simmons of Compton, Calif.

The closing session at 7 p.m., Monday, will feature the presentation of the new national president and recording secretary.

Speaking during the evening session will be Petru Popovici, pastor of Bellflower Romanian Baptist Church, Bellflower, Calif.; Steve and Shirley Dittmore, Southern Baptist missionaries to Peru; and David and Betty Ann Whitson, Southern Baptist missionaries to Tanzania.



Bayou Cassotte work dedicated

These men were among those on hand for the dedication service of the new Seamen's Center at Bayou Cassotte on the coast, April 12. From left to right are Allen Webb, William Moots, Howard Taylor, Paul Pella and Clark McMurray. Webb is director of missions for Jackson County Association; Moots is part time director of the ministry; Taylor is pastor of Arlington Heights Baptist Church, Pascagoula; Pella is director of the Port Authority; and McMurray is pastor of First Baptist Church, Pascagoula.

BYW retreat set in Columbia

First Church, Columbia on May 16 from 10 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. will host a special activity for Baptist Young Women in southern Mississippi.

The Saturday area BYW retreat, sponsored and conducted by Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, will be led by Marilyn Hopkins, BYW consultant, with the help of associational BYW directors, and members of BYW at First, Columbia.

Mission Action will be the major emphasis. A workshop on how BYW can conduct a "Big A Club" will be offered. ("Big A Club" is designed for children who have never been in Sunday School or church. Its material may be used in hour-long, once-a-week, or after school sessions.)

The retreat will also offer "how to" for other mission action projects for BYW, plus inspiration and fellowship with area BYWs.

Mrs. Bruce (Sarah) Jones, associational BYW director for Marion Association and a member of the BYW at First, Columbia, will be assisting. Also helping during the retreat will be Mrs. Bob (Jerry) Kemp, (WMU) director, First, Columbia, and associate director for District XV WMU.

The cost will be \$2.00 per person and reservation must be made before Monday, May 11. Lunch will be provided and some materials. Reservations should be sent to WMU Office, Area BYW Retreat, Box 530, Jackson, Ms. 39205.

"BYWs should bring notebook, Mission Action Project Guide, questions, and lots of enthusiasm! The dress for the retreat will be casual," said Miss Hopkins.

LOS ANGELES (BP) — The 25th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference will focus on strengthening the musical program of the local church.

The meeting, scheduled June 7-8, will precede the annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 9-11, at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

"The music conference, which will meet in First Baptist Church of Los Angeles and in First Baptist Church of Van Nuys, Calif., will be led by Thad Roberts Jr., minister of music at South Main Baptist Church in Houston, Texas, and conference president.

"This is the only professional organization for Southern Baptist church musicians, and we are going to be trying to share ideas and to help local churches and local pastors," Roberts said.

As a secondary purpose, Roberts said the musicians also will try to encourage ministers of music in local churches, a "rich, growing mission field."

The program will feature two presentations composed for the meeting. They are "Processional Fantasia," by Lanny Allen of San Antonio, Texas, and performed by the Women's Handbell Choir of Sharpstown Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, and an anthem by Max Lyall, a member of the music faculty at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., and performed by the seminary choir.

Addresses will be brought by Roberts and Mark Short of the church services division of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Alexandria, La.

Creative worship services will be led by Lyall and C. David Matthews, pastor of First Baptist Church of Greenville, S.C.

Special features include concerts by Jester Hairston, one of the nation's leading authorities on the negro spiritual; by Henrietta Davis, a San Francisco soprano who performs opera and religious music; the Romanian Baptist Church choir and orchestra; the Golden Gate Seminary choir; and the brass ensemble of California Baptist College, Riverside, Calif.

Also, participants will hold a reading session of new music, led by Fred Bock, president of Fred Bock Music Inc., of Tarzana, Calif.

Other features are the presentation of music from "Hymns Triumphant," an arrangement of standard hymns, and a 10-year retrospective of "Celebrate Life," one of the most popular Christian musicals, composed by Buryl Red of New York City, and with book and lyrics by Ragan Courtney of Houston, Texas.

It is difficult for an empty sack to stand upright.

J.D. Sims dies in Hattiesburg

J. D. Sims, vice-president for business affairs at William Carey College, died Wednesday, April 15, at Forrest General Hospital, Hattiesburg, after a lengthy illness. He was 57.

Sims became business manager at Carey in 1954 at a time when the college was struggling to stabilize its enrollment and accomplish a balanced budget. That year, Carey enrolled fewer than 100 students and was operating with a budget of \$127,000. Two years later a balanced budget was accomplished, and in the 25 years since, the college has never again exceeded its budget.

Sims was born in Soso on Oct. 19, 1923. He attended Moselle High School and the University of Southern Mississippi. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Navy as a Chief Petty Officer.

Sims was an active member of Providence Baptist Church, where he was both a Sunday School teacher and a deacon. He served as church treasurer for 25 years and was, for many years, treasurer of Lebanon Baptist Association.

Services were held at Providence Baptist Church, Hattiesburg. Officiating were Larry Gafford, pastor at Providence; Jerry Oswalt, associate professor of religion at Carey; and John Barnes, Jr., pastor of Main Street Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, and member of the Carey board of trustees.

Sims is survived by his wife, Mary Lou Triggs Sims; a daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. William and Lynn Turner of Jackson; a son, Jerry D. Sims of Hattiesburg; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Jackson Sims of Eatonville; six brothers and two sisters.

"A church...educating people in the Christian meaning of vocation"

By Anne McWilliams
"Every church seeking to have at least one career mission volunteer" — is a Bold Mission Goal to be emphasized in 1982. April as Life Commitment and Church Vocations Month offers churches a definite place to begin thinking about reaching that goal next year.

The Vocational Guidance office at the Sunday School Board suggested that the theme for this month be "God's Call: His Plan." Next Sunday, April 26, is Life Commitment and Church Vocations Sunday.

The church's responsibility in vocational guidance does not end with such a one-month emphasis, but is an ongoing responsibility, according to Leon Emery, director of Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

"A church is commissioned to educate people in the Christian meaning of vocation, which is the calling of all Christians to discipleship or ministry in the world," Martin, Magill, and Mosley point out in their study course book, *Vocational Guidance in a Church* (Convention Press). "A church has the responsibility of helping persons to make occupational choices in light of their calling to discipleship, and in accordance with their interests and abilities. Furthermore, it is the responsibility of the church to continue to guide persons in occupational and career guidance throughout their lives."

Besides the celebration of Life Commitment Month, other vocational guidance activities a church might use are Bible study groups with a vocational theme; plays and pageants; career retreats; slide sets on community occupational groups; personal letters and taped interviews from persons in various vocations; career banquets; career newspapers; tours of businesses; summer job contacts for youth; Church Vocations "Live-in" (exchanging volunteers with other

churches); and apprenticeship programs in church vocations.

Frontiers of Church Vocations by H. K. Neely, Jr. (Convention Press) outlines an apprenticeship program which gives the young person an opportunity to try out a church vocation, even if at this time he feels no leading to that vocation.

"Steps in Choosing a Career," a pamphlet published by Vocational Guidance, Baptist Sunday School Board, gives guidelines for the Christian young person. It states, "As a Christian you already have a vocation (calling)...to live out your Christian discipleship in every area of your life." Four steps are then given in how to choose a career: 1. Know yourself, your abilities and your personality. 2. Seek guidance from parents, pastor, church staff, teachers, and others (but remember that the final choice is your own). 3. Be informed, about the intriguing variety of different jobs to choose from. 4. Be aware of God's leadership.

"Discovery: God's Call," a kit obtainable from the Baptist Sunday School Board, has in it the book, *Vocational Guidance in a Church*, plus several other booklets and pamphlets on vocational guidance. Also included are two cassette tapes, one on spiritual gifts, by William Pinson, and one that gives testimonies from leading church vocations workers. One brochure gives an overview of church occupations. Additional brochures give details on individual church-related occupations: pastor, minister of education, minister of music, director of children's work, minister of youth, church secretary, director of church recreation, director of Christian social ministries, teacher in Baptist colleges, director of student ministries, religious journalist, religious artist, church business administrator.

A young person considering entering missionary service, for instance, will find in the "overview" pamphlet that both Home and Foreign Mission

Boards need several hundred persons yearly for career and short-term appointments (and will be needing more as Bold Mission Thrust progresses) and that missionaries serve in many ways — through pastoral evangelism, education, medicine, journalism, business, engineering, music, agriculture, etc.

Some Broadman Press books on vocational guidance are *A Fast Ride on a Slow Merry-Go-Round*, by Bill Estes; *So You're Going to College* by Ed Seabough; *The Christian Woman in the Working World* by Martha Nelson; *Let's Explore Jobs* by Betty Youngs; and *The Will of God* by Morris

Ashcraft. Also Broadman offers a film, "Like Father, Like Son?"

"When God touches people he usually does it through other people," wrote Robert D. Meade, vocational guidance consultant, Church Administration department, Baptist Sunday School Board. "The divine method challenges us to be human instruments in God's plan. Jesus said, 'I will make you fishers of men.'"

Southern Baptists have accepted the challenge of Bold Mission Thrust. If its goals are to be reached, many persons must continue to respond to the call to church vocations and commit their lives to the task of Bold Missions through their work.

Atheist work in Russia receives official praise

LONDON (EP) — *Agitator*, the journal of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, carries a recent article praising atheist work in the Korovograd region, according to the East/West News Service.

The journal states that a broad network of "atheist" clubs has been established throughout the region in factories, schools, institutes of higher education, cultural museums, and on collective farms. Special tribute is paid to the work of the atheist club in a tractor parts factory.

There are frequent lectures on atheism. Visiting scientists inform the workers of the basic aims of the atheistic upbringing and give advice on methods in furthering atheistic work.

"Such lectures," writes *Agitator*, "are needed not only for the benefit of believers, but also for the wavering and unbelievers. A good lecture catches the interest of the audience, stimulates a critical appraisal of one's ideas, promotes the formation of a materialistic outlook on life."

An invitation to attend an evening on "The truth about religion" states: "At this meeting you will hear about various religious trends in Christianity. Does religion teach goodness? The attitude of religion to women."

As a result of a recent questionnaire, according to East/West News, the club arranged for a series of lectures about the ideology of contemporary Orthodox believers, Baptists and Adventists, and on the irreconcilability of communist and religious morality.

Penang, Malaysia — In a new missions venture, the Malaysia Baptist Convention hopes to have nine home missionaries on the field by the end of this year. The first missionaries are to concentrate on church planting on the east coast of West Malaysia where there are only three Baptist churches. Later missionaries will go to other countries, according to Stanley Lai, chairman of the newly established mission board. Financing will come from the Malaysia convention.

Mississippians earn leadership diplomas

The following leadership diplomas have been received by Mississippi Baptist church organizational leaders during the quarter January-February-March, 1981.

W.M.U. BAPTIST WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP DIPLOMA: Mary Lee Bayne, Trinity Baptist Church, Waynesboro; Mrs. Gerry Puddington, First Pascagoula; Mrs. Evelyn Shepherd, First, Pascagoula; Mrs. Louie Odom, First, Jackson; Mrs. Nelle Padgett, Enterprise.

W.M.U. OFFICERS LEADERSHIP DIPLOMA: Mrs. Mary Lee Bayne, Trinity, Waynesboro; Mrs. Barbara Smith, Holly, Corinth; Carolyn Padgett, Enterprise; Mrs. Nelle Padgett, Enterprise; Sharon A. Padgett, Enterprise.

W.M.U. ACTEEN LEADERS DIPLOMA: Mrs. Mary Lee Bayne, Trinity, Waynesboro; Mrs. Donnie L. Stewart, Marshall, Holly Springs; Mrs. Paulette Lofton, Victory, Bassfield; Mrs. Claude H. Fortenberry, Pine Grove, Ellisville; Sharon A. Padgett, Enterprise.

W.M.U. BAPTIST YOUNG WOMEN LEADERSHIP DIPLOMA: Carolyn Padgett, Enterprise.

SUNDAY SCHOOL GENERAL OFFICERS LEADERSHIP DIPLOMA: Lloyd F. Stephens, Jr., First, Mendenhall; Harvey Anglin, Priceville, Tupelo; Joseph M. Lambert, Jayess; Robert E. Atkinson, Goodwater, Enterprise; M. A. Sanders, Calvary, Jackson; Joe H. Tuten, Calvary, Jackson; Richard L. Vinson, Calvary, Jackson; Johnnie R. Baker, Calvary, Jackson; Judd R. Allen, Calvary, Jackson.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ADULT LEADERSHIP DIPLOMA: Lloyd F. Stephens, Jr., First, Mendenhall; Jimmy E. Dillake, First, Brandon; Harvey Anglin, Priceville, Tupelo; A. G. Shepherd, First, Clinton; J. B. Black, Calvary, Jackson; Mrs. J. B. Black, Calvary, Jackson; Richard L. Vinson, Calvary, Jackson; Don Witzel, Calvary, Jackson; Johnnie R. Baker, Calvary, Jackson; Roy L. Antrim, Calvary, Jackson.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN'S LEADERSHIP DIPLOMA: Lloyd F. Stephens, Jr., First, Mendenhall; Jimmy E. Dillake, First, Brandon; Harvey Anglin, Priceville, Tupelo; Mrs. Mary Ivey, Southside, Meridian; Mrs. Ralph Burke, Calvary, Jackson; Mrs. Sara J. Lee, Calvary, Jackson; Mrs. H. V. Sebrun, Calvary, Jackson; Don Witzel, Calvary, Jackson; Mrs. Don Witzel, Calvary, Jackson; Caroline Aldridge, Calvary, Jackson.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PRESCHOOL LEADERS DIPLOMA: Lloyd F. Stephens, Jr., First, Mendenhall; Mrs. Wilda Buckley, First, Clinton; Mrs. Evie Goodrich, First, Clinton; Mrs. Sara J. Lee, Calvary, Jackson; Joe Barber, First, Clinton; Mrs. Nelda Bateman, Calvary, Natchez.

DEACON MINISTRY DIPLOMA: Robert S. Clark, Zion, Pontotoc; Robert E. Atkinson, Goodwater, Enterprise.

ASSOCIATIONAL LEADERSHIP DIPLOMA: Paul Blanchard, First Faith, Batesville; Michael J. Mitchell, Jayess.

ASSOCIATIONAL LEADERSHIP CHURCH TRAINING DIPLOMA: A. B. Godfrey, West Heights, Pontotoc; M. C. Johnson, First, Greenwood.

SENIOR ADULT LEADERSHIP DIPLOMA: Mrs. T. T. Brown, First, Hattiesburg.

CHURCH TRAINING GENERAL OFFICERS LEADERSHIP DIPLOMA: William G. Watson, Ridgecrest, Jackson.

MEDICAL SERVICES DIPLOMA: Mose Dangertfield, First, Clinton.

Planning Workshop

The Associational Planning Workshop, set for May 12 at Jackson's Alta Woods Baptist Church, will include information on Southern Baptist suggestions for programs and projects to help in training church leadership in the upcoming year.

For more information, contact Chester Vaughn, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Box 536, Jackson, Miss. 39205, or phone 968-3910.

Lottie gifts soar

(Continued from page 1)

until the normal release time. Because of increasing financial pressures, the board this year budgeted the entire \$45 million Lottie Moon goal with \$38 million of it designated for overseas operating needs. The other \$7 million was budgeted for overseas capital needs, such as churches, missionary homes and cars, and other special projects.

In past years, less than the full amount of the Lottie Moon goal had been budgeted in case receipts fell short.

Board members also appointed 24 new career missionaries to serve in 11 countries at a special service in the Lakeland (Fla.) Civic Center attended by an estimated 5,000 Florida Baptists.

They were seen toward transferring a large number of properties in Spain to Spanish Baptists and authorized missionaries in Zimbabwe to negotiate the transfer of title to the Sanyati Baptist Hospital into the name of the Baptist Convention of Zimbabwe.

Under the authoritarian regime of Gen. Francisco Franco in Spain, titles to church buildings, a camp and conference center, and seminary property in Madrid all had to be held in the name of Baptist Mission, the organization of South African missionaries in that country.

A 1980 law eased restrictions and now church properties can be turned over to congregations. Other properties will go to the Spanish Baptist

Union or another appropriate non-profit organization.

The Sanyati hospital, where missionary Archie Dunaway, Jr., a Mississippian, was murdered by guerrillas in June 1978, was kept open by loyal national staff members during the final period of the seven-year war in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). Missionaries were advised to leave their homes in the hospital compound after Dunaway's murder, but a missionary medical team continued to fly in to treat patients.

Missionary staff members now have returned to the hospital, which for many years has been the symbol of Baptist work in the strife-torn country in southern Africa.

Medical consultant Franklin T. Fowler said the agreement with the Zimbabwe convention is expected to call for a hospital board of governors that will include representatives of both the convention and the mission.

The Zimbabwe hospital is not the first to be placed under national Baptist leadership. Fowler estimated that more than half of the 20 hospitals related to Southern Baptist work overseas are operated under national Baptist boards.

The Board also voted \$60,000 as part of its allocation of Lottie Moon funds to help meet a financial emergency at the Baptist Hospital in Gaza. New regulations require greater personnel expense, and a director J. D. Hughey and others will visit Gaza later in April to determine the future course of Baptist medical work in this Middle East area administered by Israel.



50 years as GA director

Mrs. E. G. Graham, Sr. was recognized recently by Wesson WMU, in appreciation of her service as GA leader for 50 consecutive years in the Wesson Church. Mrs. Ken Stringer, Copiah County WMU director, pinned on her a corsage in WMU colors and a pin with the GA emblem.

All former GAs who were members under Mrs. Graham's leadership were invited as special guests in the morning service. Present members of GA, along with one of their leaders, Mrs. Allie Nations, presented Mrs. Graham a plaque entitled "Each Life Affects Another's," expressing their love for her. The congregation gave the honoree a standing ovation for her faithfulness. Mrs. Graham responded with a statement of her appreciation and love for the girls with whom she has worked, and their parents. This service was a part of WMU Focus Week. Mrs. Roy D. Smith, WMU director at Wesson, said, "Through the youth organizations many talents are discovered and developed which lead to the youths finding their vocation in life as teaching, missionary service, and general leadership." Left to right are Mrs. Roy D. Smith; Mrs. Graham; Mrs. Stringer; Mrs. Lamar Smith, Baptist Women president; and Mrs. George Sanders, study chairman.

Fourth youth leadership conclave is at Starkville



Kurtz Blakeney



Lee Lee

The fourth of four Youth Leader Conclaves is set for May 8 at First Baptist Church, Starkville, 7-10 p.m.

This series of area conferences is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Sunday School department.

Speakers for the conclave in Starkville include Ron Kurtz, Paul and Deborah Lee, and Jim Blakeney.

Kurtz, minister of youth at Jackson, First, will speak on "How to Grow a Sunday School."

Paul Lee, minister of education at Calvary Baptist Church, Tupelo, will speak on "Fundamentals of a Youth Teaching/Learning Experience." De-

borah Lee, a special worker for that church, will lecture on "How to Conduct a Weekly Workers' Meeting."

And Blakeney, minister of youth at First Baptist Church, Biloxi, will speak on "Creating a Learning Environment."

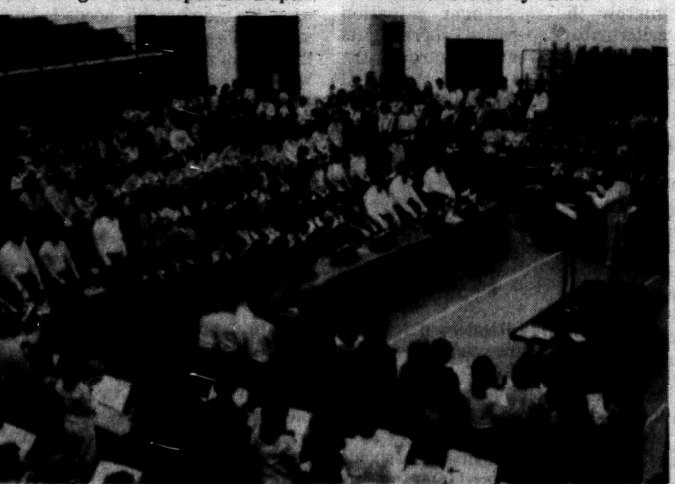
Target groups for the conclave are ministers of youth, youth Sunday School workers, and associational youth Sunday School leaders.

Other conclaves have been at Hattiesburg, Biloxi, and Jackson.

Think ACRAHAD

ACRAHAD (Adult Choir Recognition And High Attendance Day) is an emphasis across the Southern Baptist Convention and Mississippi on adult choirs and adult choir members. Pastors are encouraged to preach a sermon on the subject of "Reaching People Through Music."

Many churches will present certificates of appreciation to Adult choir members. ACRAHAD attendance reports will be turned in to the associational music director, who in turn will send them to the state music director.



28 choirs in Handbell Festival

The State Handbell Festival was held at Mississippi College Coliseum on March 21, 1981. There were 28 choirs from throughout the state participating. Phyllis Kirk, American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, Area VI chairman, Birmingham, Ala., was the festival coordinator.

Mississippi Baptist Activities

April 26-May 3 Senior Adult Week (CT Emphasis)
April 27-May 2 State Finals: Children's & Youth Bible Drills; 4:30 p.m. (CT)
27 - FBC, Senatobia/FBC, Biloxi
28 - FBC, Greenwood/Poplar Springs Drive BC, Meridian
30 - FBC, Booneville/FBC, Hattiesburg
1 - FBC, Starkville/FBC, Brookhaven
2 - Woodland Hills BC, Jackson; 2 p.m.
May 1-2 Associational WMU Officer Training; Camp Garaywa, Clinton; 4 p.m., 1st - 4 p.m., 2nd (WMU)

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The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Editorials

Baptists in Uruguay . . .

A movement gathering speed

Uruguay is made up of a secularistic society that borders on the atheistic, according to evaluations heard in that land. As a result, the work is slow.

Perhaps like the space shuttle, Columbia, the work in Uruguay, though slow in getting away from the launching pad, is picking up speed and is about ready to break away from restraining forces.

Work in Uruguay was established 70 years ago. The first church was organized in 1911 with five members. During the first 10 years only one additional church was organized, and total membership increased by only 40.

During the second 10 years two more churches were organized, and the total membership increased by almost 100. By the end of the third 10 years the number of churches had doubled again, and church membership was up by almost 200. The same thing happened during the fourth 10 years, and by 1951 there were 15 churches with 600 members, almost 300 more than at the end of the previous decade.

The fifth decade saw only six new churches, but membership increased by more than 400. During the sixth decade the number of new churches increased by 10, and membership increased by more than 600 to 1662. In 1981 there are 41 churches with 2,225 members.

The Uruguayan Baptists are at work. The baptismal ratio there is one new convert baptized to 13 members. In Mississippi the ratio is 1 to 29.

On the Wednesday evening we were in Uruguay, I spoke in the New Dawn Baptist Church in Montevideo. On the previous Sunday Pastor Wally Poor had baptized five. Poor is not ordained. His background is in journalism, but his church is alive and growing. He said he didn't know what else to do, so he took Arthur Flake's principles and went to work establishing a new church. It has grown to the point that he is planning to leave it in the hands of a national pastor shortly and start all over again in a new location.

The stage was set for the partnership in missions endeavor between Uruguay and Mississippi in a statement by Guillermo Milovan, a Uruguayan pastor and secretary of the American Bible Society for Uruguay. He said Uruguayan Baptists need to "merit the favor of the Mississippi Baptists and find how to go about having children. If not, this marriage will be unfruitful."

Brooks Wester, pastor of First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, and president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, responded by saying that "Mississippi Baptists have felt impressed of God to begin a journey with Uruguayan Baptists. We have come to take this first step. Let's leave to God how far we will go, but let's walk together."

Montevideo is a beautiful city of 1.5 million population. This accounts for half of the national population of 3 million.

The Baptist seminary located in the city was established in 1956. The director was Robert Carlisle, father of Jason Carlisle, who is a missionary to Uruguay and coordinator of the partnership in missions endeavor — officially called Mississippi Partners with Rio de la Plata because of the influence of that mighty river on the entire area.

The modern Baptist building in Montevideo houses a well-equipped and functioning recording studio as well as offices for the Baptist mission and the national convention.

Poor pointed out that the work has begun to pick up speed in the last six years. Zone missionaries have been placed, and associations set up, he noted. There is seminary extension of the work in all 19 departments of the nation, he said.

The Uruguayan Baptist Convention was formed in 1948. Missionary Eugene Dubberly is president of the convention. The vice-president is Enrique D. Francia, pastor of the Radio Norte Baptist Church in Montevideo. Jimmy Spann is chairman of the mission.

In our short visit of two days there was not a great deal of time to get acquainted with national Baptists except for speaking engagements. At the New Dawn Baptist Church I had opportunity to chat, through the courtesy of Wally Poor's translation, with several of the members. Many were young

people. Two teen-aged girls had large buttons pinned to their blouses saying in English, "There really is a Kalamazoo." They said friends of theirs from Kalamazoo, Mich., had come to Montevideo to take pictures of the statues. And it really is a city of statues. The city is crisp, clean, and orderly; and beautiful parks surround their many statues. A statue of Jose Artigas, the father of the country, graces Independence Plaza in downtown Montevideo. Many others are to be found about the city.

New Moon Church is converting a former shoe factory into an auditorium and educational space. When the property was bought it included the owner's home, and the Poores live there. When the remodeling is complete it will include a lovely courtyard in the center and a barbecue grill. The education rooms are multi-purpose in that ping pong tables serve as class dividers. Ping pong is big in South America, and it brings out the young people.

Uruguayan Baptists are beginning to move faster as their numbers increase. They continue to feel that their greatest need is in evangelism, however; and they are hoping that their Mississippi partners can help them initiate a spiritual awakening that will shake the entire nation.

Such could very well happen. The spiritual movement in Uruguay may be just before going into orbit. — DTM

LONG LIVE THE QUEEN'S MESSAGE OF 30 YEARS AGO



IT IS SURELY AN ENCOURAGING SIGN THAT THERE IS A RISING GENERATION ACTIVELY PREPARED TO GO FORTH INTO THE WORLD TO SERVE GOD FAITHFULLY. WE KNOW THAT WHEREVER WE ARE, WE KNOW THAT WE SHALL HAVE TO FACE INSECURITY, OPPOSITION, AND, PERHAPS, DANGER FOR THE CONFESSION OF OUR FAITH. BUT THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH HAS ALWAYS PROSPERED IN ADVERSITY, AND WE MUST CERTAINLY NOT BE AFRAID.

— QUEEN ELIZABETH

Thousands of others

Editor:

I am writing as one Baptist who reads of the Commissions, programs, and/or activities of the Southern Baptist Convention and wonders where decisions are made for them, and why. There must be many others who see, hear, and read about "things" carried on that neither reach lost people nor edify the church.

Among the more disturbing liberal trends are the multiplicity of commissions, departments, programs, which should have an accountability review to determine their justification for existing (it seems that the Convention is in many ways like the federal government — create another bureau, hire another bureaucrat, throw more money into a project).

The catalyst that prompted me to write was the headline story in last week's edition about the Christian Life Commission. If there is any doubt about the liberalism of this commission look at the program speakers. How many lost people will be reached by this program, or are ever reached by this commission? How many Christians will be edified? and unto what?

I am not a prominent member of the Baptist church; no endowments have been made in my name, no building has been named for me. I was convicted of my sins and of my need of a Saviour, and I trusted Jesus Christ to save me in a Baptist church. I have learned to trust Him to keep me in the experiences of life, and I have grown to love Him more day by day. Surely the Southern Baptist Convention is because of thousands of others like me, not vice versa. The admonition of Jesus to be "wise as serpents and harmless as doves" is still good for today. Let's get back to fundamentals!

Mrs. Belle McPherson
West Point

You are correct in the statement that there is a Southern Baptist Convention because of thousands of members such as yourself; and if you see a need to raise questions, you are due answers. The fact is, however, that there is a very definite accountability review. Each agency is called upon each year to appear before the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention to justify the need that it has, which, in essence, is really justifying its existence. Those needs are examined very carefully by a subcommittee, and the resulting budget proposal is brought before the Executive Committee for action. The budget is published in all of the Baptist state papers across the nation so that everyone will be aware of its details, and then it is published again in the daily bulletin of the Southern Baptist Convention as the convention gets under way. Even at the convention there is opportunity for changes as the budget is considered for final adoption or amendment. There could be no better way of accomplishing the budget-

ing in general. It might be improved upon in small specifics but not in the overall concept.

Of course, whether or not the Christian Life Commission's seminar participants were liberal is subject to interpretation. Obviously the members of the commission, and they are Southern Baptists elected by the convention, feel that they weren't. You feel that they were. I was not there. — Editor.

A lethal mixture?

Editor:

I am writing in regard to your article concerning the inerrancy rally scheduled to be held prior to the SBC meeting in Los Angeles. For some time now this group has been making headlines throughout our convention and I, for one, am tired of them fighting their political battles under the banner of the "Inerrancy of the Bible." The issue in the convention is not over the Bible!

This denomination, including its officers, teachers, and leadership, are overwhelmingly agreed that the Bible is wholly and totally true. What it means may be a question at some point. Whether the Bible presents its truth in a literal sense or along figurative lines may be a question, but whether it brings us truth is not a question.

The members of this group who are so dedicated to the inerrancy of the Bible have yet to admit their agenda. They speak of exposing "liberalism" in our Baptist schools and seminaries. Why do they not just go ahead and list those doctrines for which they have particular interpretations and which alone determine whether someone believes the Bible is "wholly and totally true?"

There is also a certain brand of churchmanship involved here. This group obviously cannot tolerate any diversity of gifts among the body. They have little, if any, patience with the more reflective, transcendent, and social emphases in Christian service. They speak of "evangelistic victory"; and I cannot help but ask where are the discipleship and the service? The issue in our recent denominational controversy is not the Bible. It is a particular brand of theological test words combined with ultra-fundamentalist ignorance and power politics. That mixture may be lethal.

R. Michael Ethridge
Clinton

been cancelled.

The rally was to have been just prior to the Southern Baptist Convention June 9 to 11 in Los Angeles. A Baptist Press news release quoted the organizer of the rally, R. L. Hymers of Los Angeles, as saying it was hoped that Judge Paul Pressler of Houston, Tex., and Paige Patterson of Dallas, Tex., could be a part of the rally. The rally was called off, and it was announced that neither could be present. Pressler will be in court in San Antonio, Tex., through Friday, June 5, and Patterson will be in a revival in Los Angeles that will go through Sunday, June 7. — Editor.

The Southern Baptist Convention . . .

Will the real SBC stand up?

The session of the Southern Baptist Convention that meets in June in Los Angeles will be faced with making a decision as to what the Southern Baptist Convention is as a corporate body. The Executive Committee of the convention will be recommending a constitutional change in the manner of determining gifts from the churches.

The convention constitution now calls for one messenger from each church that is in "friendly cooperation" with the convention is "sympathetic with its purposes," and that has been a bona fide contributor to the work of the convention during the past year. Then it adds that one additional messenger may be chosen for each 250 members of the church or for each \$300 paid to the work of the convention during the year.

The number of messengers from any one church is limited to 10.

The suggested change would retain the first messenger from any church in "friendly cooperation," but drastic changes are suggested after that first messenger is chosen. The new method would allow one additional messenger for each 2 percent of the total undesignated tithes and offerings or for each \$10,000 contributed through the Cooperative Program for the year as reported in the uniform church letter.

This is where the convention in this year (and next, if the measure passes this year) must make a decision as to what the corporate convention is.

We have talked for at least 56 years (since the Cooperative Program was instituted in 1925) or how the Southern Baptist Convention is a missions operation and how everything we do revolves around missions.

Thus the die is cast for making a decision concerning the nature of the convention.

If it is indeed a world missions operation, then there would seem to be just

cause for pegging the number of messengers on the amount of money or the percentage of gifts going to the mainstream of missions support.

Actually, money alone was the criterion for many years. In 1946 the clause was added that would allow for messengers based on church membership. As it stands now, a church with 2,250 members could give \$200 or less to missions causes and still send 10 messengers to the convention to help determine what would be done with \$90 million or so in missions gifts. Or a church that gives \$2,250 to missions could send 10 messengers. This might be from a church budget of \$22,500 given by 55 or 60 members.

Let's examine, or rather, what would be necessary to have 10 messengers under the new plan that is being proposed. Each church gets one messenger, so the need is to determine how to go about being qualified for the other nine. If it takes \$10,000 of gifts to the Cooperative Program for each messenger, then, of course, the church would need to give \$90,000 per year for a 10-messenger qualification. That is not the normal church, of course. It could be supposed that an average church's income is about \$100,000 per year for each 250 members. The average of giving for the churches through the Cooperative Program is in the proximity of 10 per cent, though it is a little lower, actually. At 10 per cent missions giving, the total income would have to be \$900,000, which would be expected (given the conditions stated above) from 2,250 members. This means that it would take a sizeable church to qualify for 10 messengers but no larger than the present case based on membership.

The simpler way would be giving 18 percent of the total gifts through the Cooperative Program. This is not average either, but is not as far from being possible as the \$900,000 budget. The church with a budget of \$22,500 would qualify for 10 messengers with Cooperative Program gifts of \$4,050.

On the other hand, again, the super-sized church that does not have an admirable record in Cooperative Program giving might still qualify for the 10 messengers simply because of this tremendous budget. For instance, the church with a budget of \$5 million could so qualify with Cooperative Program gifts of less than 2 per cent.

Then there is New Concord Church in Jasper Association. That church could send all six of its members to the convention as messengers because of its 20 per cent record of giving through the Cooperative Program.

The Southern Baptist Convention constitution says the purpose of the convention is "to provide a general organization for Baptists in the United States and its territories for the promotion of Christian missions at home and abroad and any other objects such as Christian education, benevolent enterprises, and social services which it may deem proper and advisable for the furtherance of the kingdom of God."

There seems to be no reason why messengers sent to a convention to give thought to the above named con-

siderations shouldn't be selected on the basis of Cooperative Program giving. The Cooperative Program is the basis that we have adopted for financing all of the endeavors mentioned. There have been arguments that a church should not be locked into giving through the Cooperative Program if it should prefer to make its gifts directly to an agency of its choice. But the Cooperative Program was formed to move away from just such preferences, for certain agencies prospered to the neglect of others. And all of the programs and endeavors supported by the Cooperative Program are those that have been adopted by the convention.

concept of qualifying for messengers is to be found in local church autonomy: A church could say to the convention, "You can't tell us what basis to use in the selection of messengers." The convention, however, has been doing just that for years, and nobody has complained. It is only as changes are being considered that questions are being raised.

Every penny that is spent through the Cooperative Program is considered by the convention. It is not reasonable to expect those who have not been involved in raising the money to make objective decisions concerning the spending of it.

Whether or not the formula for selection is the best that could be determined might be open to question. The motive, however, should not be questioned. Some have declared that to narrow the messenger selection criterion to Cooperative Program gifts smacks of convention control of the churches. Such is not the case. It is true that the Cooperative Program does present a control environment, but the controls are those voted upon by the messengers sent from the churches.

Guest opinion . . .

By Guy Henderson

From time to time you hear someone ask, "Why aren't we giving more to Foreign Missions?" Or, "Why aren't the funds divided 50-50 between the state and SBC causes?"

These are valid questions and should be seriously considered. Our convention has been charged with operating certain institutions and carrying out church development programs across the state. To do this, the budget committee has allocated 66.26 percent of total Cooperative Program gifts in 1981 for use in Mississippi and 33.74 percent for SBC causes. The only way these percentages can change is for churches to give more money to support Cooperative Program ministries. Presently the average for Mississippi churches is 9.6 percent of the plate offering for Cooperative Program. In dollar figures in 1979, the total offerings to all churches was \$105,764,509. Cooperative Program receipts were \$9,961,221 or 9.4 percent. If our churches gave an average of 14 per-

cent to Cooperative Program ministries, we could possibly go 50-50 with SBC causes.

However, we need to get the total picture in mind. Many of the ministries we call state causes are actually part SBC and part state. It's rather difficult to delineate these percentages. For instance, the Stewardship and Cooperative Program Department is charged with promoting the total Cooperative Program budget, one third of which goes to SBC causes. The WMU promotes the Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong offerings even though the department is listed under state causes in our budget. Then there is the Baptist Record, which reports both SBC and state news as well as serving as a forum for the discussion of issues facing Baptists in our state and across the nation. The Mississippi Baptist Convention also is a forum for all causes. The diary and convention annual list programs for both the state and SBC. Offices, telephones, insurance, etc., for these departments are

also listed as state causes.

If our budget for 1981 was printed to reflect this, it would show the following:

SBC Causes — \$4,269,425 — 33.74 percent
General Denominational Causes — \$2,256,563 — 17.83 percent
State Convention Programs — \$6,629,012 — 48.43 percent
To put it another way, we use \$6,218,586 (48.4 percent) for programs of the state convention and \$6,525,986 (51.6 percent) for general denominational and SBC causes.

If you add the anticipated Lottie Moon offering of \$2,600,000 and Annie Armstrong offering, it means that more than \$6,300,000 will be sent from our Mississippi churches to SBC causes in 1981. This is larger than the amount for state convention causes if general denominational causes are not included.

Admittedly this is hair-splitting, and yet there is an element of truth which should concern budget committees.

Adequately funded mission programs rest on a strong home foundation. People must be aware of mission programs and the urgent need of personnel and funds. Christian education is a necessity. Camps and assemblies provide much of the information and inspiration for future church leaders and missionaries. Our state convention programs lead out in church development resulting in more churches, more funds, and more volunteers for leadership roles.

Included in our stewardship responsibilities is the stewardship of the local church toward worldwide mission opportunities. This includes the association, the state, and SBC mission activities. The answer is in reaching more people, teaching and training in discipleship (including stewardship), and then sharing more of our receipts with causes around the world.

Guy Henderson is a consultant in the Stewardship and Cooperative Program Department.

In all fairness

Sibyl Brame Warren

She always smiled when she spoke. She was a young widow with three small children. Sibyl Brame



Warren Webb Brame, was pastor for 28 years, 1923-51.

Fifty years ago this spring she got a degree in math from Blue Mountain College, planning to teach. "But the Lord had different plans," she told me recently. Her life lines have followed four interests that became "first loves" — work with students and pastors' wives, and writing and speaking on Bible study and Christian living.

She wrote a book, Bible Study, published by Broadman. "I'd rather speak than write, though," she said, "for I like the contact with people. I love to see people come to the Lord." She has spoken for youth groups at Ridgecrest and Glorieta (she will lead the Bible study at Ridgecrest student retreat this summer), student conventions, and pastors' wives retreats across the nation.

Once for two years she did teach math. She has been alumnae secretary and at another time dean of students at Blue Mountain College. For nine years she was dean of students and teacher of an evening class for pastors' wives at New Orleans Seminary. From 1933 to 1936 she was associate in the Student department of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

"I always planned to marry a preacher," she confessed. "Remember Psalm 37:4—'Delight thyself in the Lord and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart?' My desire was only for a wedding ring on my finger!" Her wish came true — twice.

On her first date with Carl Townsend, she rode a gondola with him in Venice. The Raleigh, N.C., pastor and she were enroute to the Holy Land on a tour led by Frank Leavell, director of SBC student work (she was employed as Leavell's associate). Another tour member asked Townsend what he thought of Sibyl and he answered, "She's not a beauty, but she deserves a second look." So on the gondola he got that second look. The two got married in 1936; he died 11 years later.

Then, 14 years after Carl's death, while Sibyl was working at New Orleans Seminary, she married another North Carolina preacher — C. C. Warren, a former SBC president who was directing the 30,000 Movement. Warren, a family friend, wrote her after his wife died. "I'd like to come to New Orleans to see you, but I don't want to run into J. D. Grey." They arranged to meet at a hotel, with her daughter Grace along as chaperone. She married Warren in 1962; he died 11 years later.

"The secret of a happy marriage," she said, "I believe is total commitment to each other and to making a

happy marriage in the Lord."

Following college graduation, she began teaching English at Blue Mountain. When the BSU director resigned, Sibyl filled the vacancy, and thus changed her career.

"I saw the beginnings of student summer mission work in the early '30's," she said, "when I went out with Blue Mountain mission teams. Student teams set goals 'to reach every church in every association in Mississippi' with a mission program promoting the Cooperative Program.

"One illustration we used again and again, as we went from one church to another," she laughed. "The speaker would say, 'The little spike under the railroad plays an important part when the big locomotive comes along,' and the others on the team had heard it so much they would have to hold their sides to keep from cracking up!"

While on the staff of the SBC Student department she traveled widely, seeking to establish BSU organizations on campuses in various states. "It is rewarding," she said, "to see students I knew then who are in Christian service today." She added, "I'm very much encouraged about today's students and Baptist student work, because of the spiritual emphasis and degree of dedication I see in the students, as well as their involvement in mission programs."

She and her sister, Mrs. Marcie Brigham, live at 323 North St., Yazoo City. Their sisters, Frances and Elizabeth, live in Baton Rouge and Texas. In First Church, Yazoo City, Sibyl teaches Sunday School, leads a Marriage Enrichment group in Church Training, directs Bible study for WMU, and teaches a Thursday morning Bible study class. With the BALL (Be Active, Live Longer) Club she sang in a musical. She reads and sews, but since hip surgery no longer plays golf, an interest she shared with both husbands.

Her son, Tim, is pastor at Fredericksburg, Va.; her son Carl is an electronic consultant in Portland, Ore.; Grace is married to Paul Merchant, professor at Warwick University, Leamington Spa, England (they will be in the States soon; he will teach at Ole Miss while on sabbatical leave.) Very much in the picture are three grandchildren, eleven step-grandchildren, and three great-step-grandchildren.

"I never accepted work where my children could not be with me. College and seminary students contributed a lot to their lives. I am grateful they could be with me in a Christian atmosphere, to grow up among Christian people who were all so good to them. We were happy . . . and to me Christianity is happiness."

She added, "The Lord has been wonderful to me. He has blessed spiritually, physically, mentally. I could not sing or paint a picture or dance. I was untalented, I felt, and unremarkable, but the Lord took what I offered and channeled it for His use. Once a student told me, 'I think the Lord is calling me to preach, and I can't preach.' I agreed, 'Right, John, you surely can't!' but then I told him 'but God can — through you.'"



Mississippi executive secretary-treasurer Earl Kelly, left, enjoys a light moment with missionary Eugene Dubberly, second from left, president of the Uruguay Baptist Convention; Enrique D. Francia, pastor of Radio Norte Baptist Church in Montevideo and vice-president of the convention; and Jason Carlisle, right, furloughing missionary to Uruguay who is serving as coordinator for Mississippi Partners with the Rio de la Plata.



James Yates, right, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and pastor of First Baptist Church, Yazoo City, chats with Missionary Paul Roaten of Tupelo, center, and Enrique D. Francia, pastor of Radio Norte Baptist Church in Montevideo and vice-president of the Uruguay convention.



Earl Kelly, Mississippi executive secretary-treasurer, back to camera, visits with a group of national Baptists in Montevideo following a meeting with national Baptists and missionaries.

HMB names 42

ATLANTA (BP) — Directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board named 42 persons to mission service during their April meeting in Atlanta.

Included in the appointments were 14 missionaries, six missionary assistants, eight persons granted church pastoral assistance and 10 people approved for

language pastoral assistance.

In other action, the directors voted to approve the early retirement of William H. Slagle, 57, associate director of the board's church extension division, effective May 31. He has been associated with the board since 1956. He will be a bivocational pastor in Gainesville, Ga.

Staff Changes

Eddie Graves is the new pastor at First Church, Marion. He was the pastor of Shady Grove Church, Bogue Chitto, before going to Marion.

A native of Ripley, he was graduated from Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary, and is presently pursuing the Ed.D. degree at New Orleans Seminary. He is married to the former Marilyn Lewis from Starkville. They have one son, Adam.

Gerald Odom is the new pastor of Pleasant Grove Church, Wayne County.

He is a graduate of Jones County Junior College, William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. He has recently served as pastor of Shelton Church, Jones County. Odom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Coyt Odom of Waynesboro. His wife is the former Andreae Frasier of Waynesboro.

Coldwater Church, Philadelphia, recently called Robert L. Patty, a

Chattanooga, Tenn. native, as pastor. A graduate of New Orleans Seminary, Patty was ordained to the gospel ministry by Coldwater Church on March 15, the first such ordination in the church's 56-year history. Since January the church has experienced a real spirit of revival, with eight additions by baptism.

Bob Mack has accepted the pastorate of County Line Church, Crystal Springs. A native of Jones County, he holds a B.A. degree from William Carey College and M.Div. from New Orleans Seminary. He and his wife Barbara and son Ed have already moved to the church field.

Locust Street Church, McComb, has called Kenneth (Kenny) White as minister of music and youth. He is a graduate of William Carey College and will be going to Locust Street from the Shady Grove Church, Bogue Chitto.



David Barron, (center) has been called as the new minister of music at Belle Fountain Church, Ocean Springs. The church's new pianist is (left) Mrs. Kim Walley and new organist (right) Mrs. Arlene Meredith. C. H. Stone Jr. is pastor.

Brooks Wester, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and pastor of First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, speaks to a gathering of missionaries to Uruguay and Mississippi task force members at the home of missionary Joe Benfield in Montevideo. Missionaries Mr. and Mrs. Wally Poor at seated at left. Mississippi Paul Roaten of Tupelo is seated at right.

Baptists in Uruguay . . . movement gathers speed



Guillermo Milovan, right, American Bible Society for Uruguay and a Baptist pastor there, speaks to the gathering of missionaries and national Baptist leaders in Montevideo. Jason Carlisle, coordinator, translates.



Offices, the mission offices, and a modern recording studio capable of broadcasting.

Luther Rice Seminary names Gene Williams

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — Gene M. Williams, an evangelist from Hurst, Texas, has been named president-elect of Luther Rice Seminary.

Williams will become president of the 19-year-old institution in May 1982, succeeding Robert Witty, 74, who will become chancellor.

In December, regents of the Jacksonville school called off merger talks with Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas, under which it was proposed that Paige Patterson, president of CCBI, would become president of the merged institution.

Williams, a native of Corsicana, Texas, was reared in Houston. He received the A.B. degree from Baylor University and the M.Div. and Th.D. degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

After 13 years as pastor of churches in Texas, Louisiana and Alabama, entered full-time evangelism in 1957. Williams was professor of evangelism in homiletics and chairman of the Division of Theological Education at Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary in

Lynchburg, Va., from 1973-76. There are 200 resident students at Luther Rice and some 4,000 extension or correspondence students.

The school, which is not accredited but is seeking accreditation through the American Association of Bible Colleges, is not affiliated with the Florida Baptist Convention or the Southern Baptist Convention.

Louisville, Ky. — A nationwide campaign aimed at sharing the gospel with the young people of America has received the endorsement of Duke K. McCall, head of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and president of the Baptist World Alliance.

"From Jesus With Love," a project of the Jerry Drace Evangelistic Association of Jacksonville, Fla., will consist of mid-week crusades hosted by key pastors in various cities throughout the country. The concept was first introduced last year to a group of pastors at the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, Mo.

Rankin County WMU will install officers, hear Mrs. Marler

The Rankin associational WMU spring meeting will be held at 7 p.m., Thursday, April 23, in the sanctuary of Pinelake Church near the reservoir, on the theme, "Links of Love." Mrs. Doris Edge, associational WMU director, will preside. Mrs. Parkes Marler, missionary to Guam, will speak. Mrs. Marler is the former Martha Ellen Townsend of Harpersville.

Other program personalities will include: Lannie Wilbourn, pastor of Pinelake Church; Lori Ann Buchs and The Crusaders Music Group; Mrs. Jean Benton, Starteam member, First

Church, Brandon; WMU directors — Mrs. Ellen Watkins, First, Pearl; Mrs. Barbara Bailey, McLaurin Heights; Mrs. Marie McAlpin, Eastside, Pearl; Mrs. Louise Creel, Sunshine Church; Mrs. Frances Brister, Pinelake; GA leaders — Mrs. Dee McCordle of Sunshine and Mrs. Wilmoth McCrary of Mt. Pisgah; Mrs. June Ivy, District 13 Director; J. C. Renfro, director of missions for Rankin County Association; and Mr. and Mrs. William Womack, missionaries to Barbados. The 1981-82 associational WMU officers will be installed. A time of fellowship will conclude the meeting.



Short Creek Church near Iuka narrowly escaped being a victim of a forest fire on March 28. Blackened trees at right show how near the flames came to the church building which is still under construction.

Short Creek escapes fire

By James J. Kirk, minister of music Short Creek Church

Short Creek Baptist Church was organized in February, 1980, near Iuka and is still in a building program. We have a basement which we use as our sanctuary and the upstairs is divided into classrooms for Sunday School and Church Training. We're hoping to finish the main sanctuary this year.

With March being a month of lots of strong winds, someone let a fire get out of control on March 28, 1981; the wind blowing in a northwesterly direction swept the countryside at such a rate that the State Forestry Department, Hiwassee Land Co., Tennessee River Land Co., Tishomingo Volunteer Fire Dept., Burnsville Volunteer Fire Dept., Belmont Volunteer Fire Dept., and First District Volunteer Fire Dept., could not contain it.

At my place of business, I heard of the fire on a police scanner and called the sheriff's department to see if my house was in jeopardy and was informed that it was. I donated the property to Short Creek Baptist Church on which to build the church which is across the Coleman Park Road from my house. Upon arriving, I saw that our church was in more jeopardy than my home.

Our pastor, G. D. Jones, and his wife, had already arrived and I saw and heard this terrible fire raging toward our church. One of my employees, Tim Walker, had arrived to help. We ran to my home to get water hoses to wet down the church and when we returned to hook them up, we saw that there had not been any water outlet installed in our building.

At the back of the church were 10 stacks of lumber to use in the construction of our church sanctuary. As the fire raged toward them they caught on fire and the blaze was leaping into the air toward the church with no possible way to contain it. As of this time, no fire truck had arrived. They were working on various other locations.

I am sure my pastor was praying for Jesus to save our church; I was also, and just before the fire reached the church, the Lord changed the direction of the wind and the flames went the other way! Then the wind died down until the flames were small.

When a person can see with his own eyes the miracle of God at work, you want to tell the world about it. Sure, we lost some lumber, about four or five stacks, but Sunday morning, March 29, 1981, we did have a church to worship in and give thanks to our Lord for the blessings He has given us.

Missional gifts to Foreign Missions Week of Prayer (Lottie Moon Christmas Offering) are listed as received from May 1, 1980 through March 31, 1981 with 1,598 churches participating. At that time total gifts amounted to \$2,731,702.21

He led Tennessee Baptists as state convention president from 1931-35, and was president of the Southern Baptist Convention 1949-51. His sermon "Pay Day, Someday," was delivered over 1,200 times and he wrote 53 books.

Baptist Student Union officers for 1981-82 at East Central Junior College who were recently installed are: (seated left to right) Scotty Goldman of Philadelphia, president; Missy Watson of Louisville, music chairman; Traci Stringfellow of Louisville, fellowship chairman; Kathy Yarbrough of Noxapater, worship chairman; Shelly Hill of Louisville, missions chairman; and Bill Watson of Forest, outreach chairman; (standing left to right) Rita Dobbs of Philadelphia, Bible study chairman; Clifton Seals of Louisville, publicity chairman; Steve Brock of Newton, drama chairman; Betty Daniels of Preston, student center chairman; Sherry Roebuck of Union, BSU paper editor; and Barbara Yates of Philadelphia, secretary.

comings

First Church, Louise, will have its third homecoming day on Sunday, May 3. The featured speaker will be R. J. Sanderson, a former pastor of the church.

Dinner will be served on the grounds after the morning service. Singing and fellowship will follow. Former pastors present will receive recognition. Fellowship time will be from 10 to 10:45 a.m., continued with lunch and music time in the afternoon. "We invite each member or former member," said Keith McIntyre, chairman of the homecoming committee.

Homecoming will be celebrated Sunday, April 26, 11 a.m., at Crowder Church. Lunch will be served. Jackie Cooke, a Crowder native, pastor of Shiloh Church, Sontag, will speak. C. A. Southerland is music/youth director and Truman D. Scarborough is pastor.

Homecoming and dinner on the ground will be held at Utica Church, May 3. Pastor John Ed Snell will preach.

Monroe to conduct VBS clinics

The Monroe Association will conduct Vacation Bible School Clinics on May 4 and 5. The May 4 clinic will be held with Friendship Church, Aberdeen at 7 p.m. and the May 5 clinic, which will be a repeat of the first, will be held with First Church, Amory at 7 p.m.

Nursery for pre-school children will be provided.

Derma to celebrate 75th year

Derma Church, Derma, will observe its 75th anniversary special services Sunday, May 17.

From a beginning of eight charter members in May, 1906, with total receipts of approximately \$45.00 and mission gifts of \$7.00, the church in 1981 numbers 313 members, with total income of \$94,000 and mission gifts of \$13,000. Current property value is in excess of \$250,000.

Special events in the 10:45 a.m. service will include a dramatization of the church's beginning, greetings from former pastors, recognition of former members, an address by W. Z. Hollant, pastor of the church in 1931, and choral music.

The noon meal will be served by the host church and a 1:30 p.m. informal service will feature singing and testimonials.

Shiloh Church, Marion County, is planning to stage an Old-Fashioned Day on Sunday, April 26, according to Bob Goolsby, pastor.

Sunday School, to begin at 10 a.m., has set a goal of 136, or 100 percent of the enrollment.

The worship hour at 11 a.m. will include a roll call of all members of the church. Pastor Goolsby will preach the morning message. Dinner on the grounds will be followed by a fashion show involving all those present wearing clothing depicting styles of years past.

A gospel sing in the afternoon will feature special guests, as well as local talent. Also, during the afternoon service, two preachers from the church will speak.

Cary Church will celebrate homecoming day May 3. Sunday School will begin at 9:45 and morning worship at 10:45. The Cary Couriers will sing at the morning service and Sammy Ray, a former pastor at Cary, will preach. Tim Edwards and the Crusaders will sing before and after dinner on the ground.

Harmony Church, Carroll County, will have homecoming day on April 26. W. M. Daves, pastor of East End Church, Columbus, will be guest speaker. (Harmony was his first pastorate many years ago.) Lunch will be spread outside on tables under large oak trees at noon, according to Mrs. H. L. Mosley. Luther Lindsey is the pastor. A revival will begin the following day. (See "Revival Dates" column).

Homecoming services are to be held at Woodhaven Church, Ocean Springs, on Sunday, May 3. Homecoming service will be conducted at 11 a.m. Dinner on the grounds will follow the morning service. "We will observe the 70th anniversary of the Woodhaven church with rejoicing and praise to God for His blessings," stated Curtis I. Miller, pastor.

Burkett to fill Annuity PR slot

DALLAS (BP) — Corabob "Bobbie" C. Burkett has been named acting director of public relations for the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, effective April 23, succeeding John Boskas, who resigned to accept a corporate position.

Burkett, 39, originally from Shreveport, La., joined the Annuity Board in 1975 as executive secretary to the public relations director. In 1976 she was promoted to administrative assistant.

Burkett was on the music staff of First Baptist Church, Amarillo, Texas, where she was a member for 20 years.



First Church, Pontotoc, won in the senior high division of Rebel Round-up.



First Church of Days, Nesbit, won the championship for the junior high division.

Pontotoc, Days win in rebel round-up

The Ole Miss Baptist Student Union's second annual Rebel Round-Up was held on March 28. Sixteen senior high teams and eight junior high teams participated in a day of games followed by a rally featuring Rebel football players Breck Tyler and Bryan Kennedy and Lady Rebel basketball player Sherrie Winterstien.

Taking part in the day-long affair, which is a major fund raiser for the BSU summer missions program, were more than 300 youths from cities as wide apart as Meridian, Corinth, and Clarksdale. In all, 20 churches were represented in competition.

Members of the Ole Miss BSU served as officials for the games, team "mommies" and "daddies," and ran the concession stand, as well as providing a share of the entertainment during the rally. Other BSU personalities present, in addition to UM director Ron Boswell, were associate state BSU director Lloyd Luncford and state president Candia Gray.

This year's games produced a new set of champions, as the senior high

division was won by First Church, Pontotoc, and the junior high division champion was First Church of Days, Nesbit.

Carlo Curley to give recital at Northminster

Carlo Curley, 27, American concert organist, will be presented in recital on Friday, April 24, at 8:15 p.m. at Northminster Church, Jackson.

The recital is a presentation of the Jackson chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Admission is free. Curley gave a televised organ concert in 1977 in London's Alexandra Palace, attracting one of the largest audiences for a solo musical performance in BBC history. Last year he returned to London for additional concerts.

A prodigy, he publicly performed Bach from memory at eight, leading to a scholarship at his native North Carolina School of the Arts. By 17 he was touring the U.S. performing symphonic organ pieces of the 19th and 20th centuries, as well as Bach. At 19 he was teaching at Girard College, Philadelphia, Penn. He was the first concert organist to have built and own a portable computer organ, which now tours with him worldwide.

Rankin women, girls meet on reservoir

Rankin County WMU sponsored two events at the assembly building on the reservoir recently, according to Edna Edge, associational WMU director.

On April 9 Baptist Women of the county held a luncheon and a "Gift Seminar." Mrs. Earl Kelly of Jackson reviewed her book, *The Gifted Woman* I Am. Jeannette Ainsworth is associational Baptist Women director.

One Saturday, 182 Girls in Action met for a Round-up to hear missionaries and to roast weiners. The girls, dressed in jeans and straw hats, broke up into groups of 40 to 45, and rotated from one speaker to another. Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Spires, missionaries, talked about the culture of Malawi and showed artifacts from that country. Gary Saliba of McLaurin Heights Church led a guitar and song fest. Joanne Rice of Pearl, associational GA director, was assisted in the program by GA leaders of various churches represented.

Clifford William Amos has been appointed as director of development for New Orleans Seminary. Amos, born in South Charleston, West Virginia, considers Loveland, Ohio home. He earned a bachelor's degree in management from University of Cincinnati in 1974. He completed the requirements for a master of divinity at New Orleans Seminary in March of this year.



Amos

Samuel Ray Henry of Oakvale, Society Hill Church, was a participant in the Evangelism Explosion III International Leadership Clinic, held March 20-25 at First Church, Ft. Lauderdale. A total of 70 pastors, wives and laypeople from 12 various denominations attended the clinic, investigating this ministry of evangelism, discipleship and church nurture. The Evangelism Explosion ministry has made Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida one of the fastest growing churches in its denomination in the United States for several years, growing from 17 members to more than six thousand.

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — James W. Hatley, 57, director of world missions conferences for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission for almost five years, will become executive director of missions of the Austin (Texas) Baptist Association May 1.

Spring

When I think of spring I think of green trees
Fluffy white clouds and buzzing bumblebees.

Flowers in bloom, birds on the wing,
Streams overflowing from many spring rains.

Dogwoods are blooming, grass is so green,
Wildflowers so gorgeous, they're fit for a queen.

Nature's rebirth, that's the whole story,
Spring is here in all of its glory!

— Ruth Norsworthy Crager

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE: Used church furniture — PULPIT FURNITURE, COMMUNION TABLE, 21 PEWS. Light solid oak with gold-colored fabric cushioned seats.

Meadowood Baptist Church, P.O. Box 412, Amory, MS 38821. (601) 256-9428

Gatesville (Copiah) May 3-8; Dennis Duval, pastor; North Calvary, Philadelphia, and native of Shubuta, Clarke County, evangelist; Mike Sykes, song leader; Charles King, pastor; services 7:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; lunch to be served at the church May 3.

Hernando Church: May 11-17; services at 7 p.m.; Bobby Douglas, First Church, Hixson, Tenn., evangelist; Laderel Harrelson, First Church, Hixson, Tenn., music director.

Liberty Hill (Panola), Pope: April 24-26; Elven and Molly Fairchild, Moselle, evangelists, presenting various visuals; music to be led by Homer Lee Finnie, Bonnie Anthony at the keyboard; Friday's service at 7 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; James Lee Bailey, pastor.

Westview, Jackson: April 26-29; Sam Creel, pastor of Sunshine Church, Brandon, guest preacher; services Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. (on the 32nd anniversary of the Westview Church); "dinner" at the church Sunday; weekday services at 12 noon, with a luncheon, and at 7:30 p.m. nightly; the church's minister of music, Bob McNamee, in charge of the music; Joe L. Hasson, pastor.

Wilkinson (Smith): April 26-May 1; Billy Ballard, evangelist; Ray Fuller, pastor; dinner on the ground Sunday; services at 7 each night, and 11 a.m. Sunday.

Shady Grove, Hazlehurst, youth week and revival, 26-29 April, David Lawrence, pastor of Harmony Church, Crystal Springs, evangelist; Tommy and Carol Joy Sparkman, minister of music, First Church, Terry, music leaders; begins with morning service April 26, dinner on grounds at noon that day, and continues with 7 p.m. services. Foy Rogers, interim pastor.

The story lives on

The tie that binds
tightened,
as we gathered
with family and friends
to be led once again
by our pastor
to the old rugged cross.

It was Easter,
and there we were
on Golgotha
silent and mindful
of the One who
shed His blood
for our freedom.

Our hearts are stirred
by the beautiful age-old story
that lives on and on
of the unchangeable Christ
and His sacrificial love.

— Roxie Barton Jones

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Aileen Meek (Mrs. George D. Meek) of Jackson was presented the Northside Sertoma Club's annual "Service to Mankind" Award on March 18 at a luncheon held at Primus Northgate. Each year the club presents the award to a person who gives unselfishly of his or her time in helping others. She has been a member of the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center's Auxiliary where she has done volunteer work for 27 years. She has been a member of First Baptist Church of Jackson for 57 years and presently is director of the exceptional children's department there. Mrs. Meek is involved in various fund-raising drives. Left to right are Mark Richardson, president of the Northside Sertoma Club, Mrs. Meek, and her husband.

Bible Book Series

Samuel's deliverance of Israel

By Gordon H. Sansing, pastor
FBC, Pontiac
1 Samuel 6:1-7:17

The Philistines had taken something which they really did not want, namely, the ark of God. For seven months the ark had been in their land and there had been nothing but trouble. Now they wanted to get rid of it. The advice of religious leaders was sought, and their counsel was to send it back to the Hebrew people with a trespass offering. In their minds this would make atonement for their wrongs.

Thus, plans for a new cart and cows which were untrained were established. The cows were to be tied to the cart and their calves were taken home. The natural instinct of the cows would be to go to their calves. If they went to the nearby Israeli town, the Philistines would know they were directed by God. The cows went to Bethshemesh where the ark was joyfully received. Take note of how the Philistines tried to placate God with the offerings. The thought that God can be "bought off" is still a religious problem and a travesty of truth.

When the people of Bethshemesh realized that the ark had been returned to them, they used the wagon and the cows to offer a sacrifice to God immediately. However, these Israelites did not treat the ark with proper respect. As a result, there occurred a great tragedy which was attributed to divine judgment for their improper behavior. The ark was then taken to Kirjath-jearim where it was placed in the house of Abinadab. Eleazar, Abinadab's son, was placed in charge of the ark. The ark remained there for twenty years, until King David brought it to Jerusalem.

1. Preparation of Israel (7:3-4) After a lengthy interval in the story, Samuel reappears here. His message to the people of Israel was an urgent call to repentance. "If you return unto the Lord with all your hearts, then..." This act of true repentance, turning to the Lord with all the heart, would naturally result in "putting away the strange gods, preparing their hearts, and serving only God." True repentance always involves a turning away from evil (that which is opposed to God) and a turning to righteousness (that which is of God). Total commitment to God is the challenge.

God's deliverance of Israel waited about 20 to 30 years.

on one condition, repentance. Whatever other elements are necessary to an act of repentance, certainly these two are essential: a vision of God, and a completely honest response.

Israel responded to the challenge of Samuel, the spokesman of God. They "put away the Baals and the Ashtaroth," Canaanite fertility gods. No longer would they look to these false gods for the productivity of their crops. They would serve God alone and rely on Him to meet their needs.

2. The action of Samuel (7:5-6) When Israel demonstrated a willingness to turn to God, Samuel called all Israel together at Mizpeh for a prayer meeting. Mizpeh was an important religious and political center located five miles north of Jerusalem and was one of three cities where Samuel served regularly. Samuel must have been a man of prayer for his prayer power was later noted by Jeremiah (15:1) Samuel functioned as a prophet, priest, and judge in Israel. Here, his authority is readily noted as the people again responded to his call.

The people gathered and "drew water, and poured it out before the Lord." This was an act of worship which here indicated repentance on the part of the people. They "fasted on that day..." which was an act of sorrow for sin. They confessed their sin against the Lord. "Sin" means "to miss the mark." Thus, their confession was that they had missed God's intention for their lives. Then Samuel began to act as a judge, one who administers justice and serves as a deliverer.

3. Confrontation with the Philistines (7:7-8) It seems that when the Philistine leaders heard of this gathering at Mizpeh, they decided to take advantage of Israel's involvement in the religious celebration to make an attack. "When the children of Israel heard it..." that is the actual preparation for battle, "they were afraid of the Philistines." In order for the Philistines to be ready to wage war, they had to be in earshot of Israel's camp. Remember, fighting in that day was close-range, hand to hand combat mostly.

Fearfully, the people of Israel called for Samuel. Fear was a natural response to an invading army who had previously defeated Israel. Samuel was asked to pray to the Lord without

ceasing, asking God to save them from the Philistines. These words indicate Israel's growing confidence in Samuel and God. Pray for God's help was their request.

4. Intervention of the Lord (7:9-11) Samuel responded to the Israelite's plea. He took a lamb, the best available, and offered it completely unto the Lord. This offering symbolized complete dedication to the Lord. When the offering was presented, Samuel cried to the Lord, making intercession for Israel. The Lord heard the prayer and answered.

As the Philistines drew near to battle, "the Lord thundered with a mighty voice that day against the Philistines. Somehow God in His lovingkindness intervened in a manner which brought confusion to the Philistines. Just how God did this is not recorded. The important thing to learn is that God intervened.

Israel then joined in with God and participated in the battle. The enemy was pursued to Beth-car, mentioned only here in the Old Testament, and the Philistines were soundly defeated.

5. Erection of a memorial (7:12) After the victory, Samuel took a stone and set it between Mizpeh and Shen. He called it Ebenezer, "a stone of help." This was an expression of thanks to God and a reminder to the people that God had brought deliverance.

Samuel had called the people to repentance, led them in a new commitment to God, and prayed on their behalf. God gave the victory and Samuel set up a stone as a memorial to the Lord.

Let us be reminded of God's goodness to us and never take for granted His mercy. May our lives become memorials of service to our Father in heaven.

Ruleville Church, Ruleville: A. M. Moore, III, pastor; Herb Wright, Tampa, Fla., evangelist; Ray Simpson, Oakhurst, Clarksdale, song leader; one by letter; seven professions of faith; many commitments to tithe and have family altar.

Home missions conferences focus on giving

ATLANTA — "These Things Are Thine" is the theme for both 1981 Home Missions Conferences at Glorieta and Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Centers, according to William G. Tanner, president of the Home Mission Board.

The conferences will focus on bold giving, the emphasis for the 1981-82 year of Bold Mission Thrust, Tanner said.

"The call of God to man is a call to responsible stewardship," stated Tanner. "Our efforts to mobilize a bold thrust in evangelizing, congregationalizing and ministering to this nation will continue to fall far short of the mark as long as we relegate stewardship to a subordinate concern."

Lewis Drummond, Billy Graham Professor of Evangelism at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, will be the featured preacher at Glorieta July 11-17. Bible study leader will be Floyd Roebuck, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Rome, Ga., and Bob Burroughs, minister of music at The Rock Baptist Church of Rex, Ga., will be the music coordinator.

At Ridgecrest August 15-21, D. L. Lowrie, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Lubbock, Tex., will be preacher for the conference.

Devotional

Jesus is our life

By Lewis Sewell, pastor, 1st, Oxford, Mississippi 39201

Tom was a teenager. He had been in the church all his life. He knew about Jesus through Sunday School and worship services and Vacation Bible School and church in general. But he had a problem. Is Jesus really alive?



Sewell

Many people entertain the same question. At least they live as though there is doubt. Their lives before the world are void of visible spiritual power.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Philippi. He suggests in his letter that Jesus Christ lives before the world when the believer lives a life in Christ. Observe Paul's reasons for saying, when we live a life in Christ, Christ lives before the world.

A life in Christ manifests an unwavering faith (verse 12). Paul was in jail in Rome. He had committed no crime. He preached the gospel of Jesus. The advocates of Judaism, the official Jewish religion, and the supporters of the Roman government were offended by Paul's preaching. His faith in Jesus and the presence of Jesus in his life were obvious.

Friends of Paul were afraid for his life. Paul viewed his imprisonment as an opportunity to preach the Gospel. His faith never faltered. He knew Jesus was in his life. Others saw the presence and power of Jesus in the life of Paul. What a witness! What a testimony! Rather than silence Paul's preaching his imprisonment was effective preaching of the Gospel because Jesus was in Paul's life.

The same phenomenon happened in the lives of more modern men. Dietrich Bonhoeffer was jailed in Nazi Germany. His unwavering faith spoke even louder of the presence of Jesus in his life. Bill Wallace died in China. The presence of Jesus in his life even in death made Jesus live before the world.

A life in Christ magnifies a living Lord (verses 20-21). The Lord is presented and magnified for better viewing by the world through the faithful living of a believer.

Paul's concern was not for his life. His concern was that Jesus would be exalted or lifted up or magnified through his life. When a believer commits himself to Jesus to the point he can say with Paul "... to live is Christ," he reveals to the world that Jesus is living. Jesus lives in His born again believer through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

When we sing "Jesus Is All the World to Me," we make a mockery of faith unless the world sees Jesus living in and through us.

Enid Lake Mission opens with 42

Enid Lake Mission opened April 5 with a 10 a.m. service. Pictured are some of the people who made up the congregation for the first service of the new work started by Panola Baptist Association.

Present for this first service were 42 people, visitors, and local area residents. Three united with the church by transfer of letter, as G. E. Jolley, director of missions for Panola Association, preached the first sermon.

There were people from ten churches in the association visiting at this first service. Many of these were people who had participated in some way in bringing this mission to a reality. Recognized among the visitors were Wesley Nicholas, moderator of the association; Billy Burnett, chairman of deacons, FBC, Batesville, the sponsoring church; and the new pastor, Howard Armstrong.

Twenty of the association's 26 churches have contributed financially

to the mission effort. Many individuals gave money and labor. The Custom Sign Company made and donated the church signs. Four or five churches gave offering plates, chairs, tables, piano, pulpit and many other necessary items. Burnett Construction Company installed, free, the septic tank and field lines. Others contributed equipment for landscaping the 1.4 acres. The Sunday School Board,

Nashville, gave a quarter's literature and 25 hymnals.

"By the time this article is read the \$6,800 spent to begin this ministry will have been paid with about \$200 over," stated Jolley. "Our people and churches feel proud of meeting a mission challenge right in our own association. As director of missions, I am proud that our association can see mission opportunities at home as they see them across the world."



Enid Lake Mission opens.

Uniform Lesson

Commissioned by the victor

By Tom F. Rayburn, pastor
First, Booneville
Matthew 28:11-20

An ancient story is told that when Jesus ascended to heaven, the gates were thrown open wide and the heavenly choirs sang to welcome Him home. The saints and angels in heaven asked Him about His mission on earth. He told them about His birth, His ministry in helping people, His death on the cross, and His resurrection so that sinful beings could be saved. Then He told them how He had ordered His disciples to go out into the world and win it. He was referring to the Great Commission.

One citizen of heaven asked, "You mean that You entrusted everything to weak, sinful men?"

"Yes," He said, "to weak, sinful men."

"But suppose they fail?" came another inquiry. "What other plan do you have?"

"I have no other plan," He responded. And then after a pause, He added, "But I will be with them always."

Our lesson today will help us with a better understanding of the Great Commission. The full lesson text Mt. 17:1-9 and Mt. 28:11-20 deals with two separate incidents. The first took place in Jerusalem immediately after Jesus' resurrection. The second occurred some days later in Galilee.

V-11 When they were going... The guard that had been set around the tomb to keep it safe came and gave a true account of what had happened to Annas and Caiaphas.

V-12-15 — The bribing of the soldiers and the account that His body was stolen by His disciples. The resurrection of Jesus is one of the most important doctrines of the Christian faith. Here is some evidence that He really arose. 1. Jesus often spoke of his death and resurrection (Mt. 12:40; Mt. 16:21; and Mt. 20:19). 2. The Jews, Romans, and disciples were all satisfied that He really died. 3. Every means possible was used to prevent his body from being stolen from the tomb. A Roman guard about sixty men, was placed around the tomb. In addition to this, the tomb was sealed tight with a large stone and was shut. 4. On the third day His body was missing. They all agreed to this. The High Priests tried to reason it out. His disciples said that He was

alive. The Jews hired the Roman soldiers to tell that He was stolen while they slept. Many people even today believe the story of the soldiers.

The Jewish explanation is absurd. 1. The soldiers were placed at the tomb for the express purpose of guarding the body of Jesus. 2. A Roman soldier who went to sleep while on guard duty was put to death. It is highly unlikely that they would sleep and get killed for it. 3. The disciples had just run away from those who took Jesus in the garden. They were few in number, weak, unarmed and scared. It is hard to believe that they would be able to take away the body when the soldiers were guarding it. 4. How could the disciples know that the soldiers were asleep? If they did catch them asleep how could they remove the stone and take the body without awakening the soldiers? 5. The grave clothes were folded and laid out in order. When a grave is robbed, the robbers do not take the time to calmly fold up the clothes and lay them carefully aside. This shows that the body was not stolen. 6. If the soldiers were asleep, how did they know that it was the disciples who stole the body? If they were awake, why did they allow it?

The account of the resurrection by the disciples is natural and true. 1. The soldiers did not see Jesus when He arose because an angel appeared and they were terrified and became as dead men. 2. All of the apostles and many of his friends say that they saw Him. 3. The apostles preached it in Jerusalem. If the Jews really believed the account which they had given, why did they not arrest the apostles and find them guilty of theft? 4. The apostles were not fooled. They had been with Jesus for three years. They knew him as a friend. After the resurrection they ate and drank again with Him. They put their fingers and hands into his hands and side. They talked with Him, and they were with Him for forty days. 5. They gave evidence of their sincerity. They were persecuted, ridiculed, scourged, and put to death for preaching and believing the resurrection. They did not doubt, they bore the suffering patiently. They did not receive any money for it. They had no other motive than that they loved Jesus, loved the truth, and knew that when sinful men trust Him, they will be saved. 6. The world believed them.

Three thousand were saved on the day of Pentecost. Many Jews and priests believed. After 300 years the Roman Empire proclaimed itself Christian. If the disciples had been liars and deceivers they would have been detected and punished. Yet, God affirmed and put His approval on their belief and preaching, because it was true.

V-16 Then the eleven... They paid Him honor as the Messiah. Thomas was the one who doubted. They had not expected His resurrection. We were slow to believe. After examining the evidence their doubts fled. Their conviction grew, and they were willing to die for this if necessary. The fact that they were not fooled is proof of His resurrection.

V-18 All power... The Son of God as Creator had a right to all things.

V-19 Go... Because all power is mine, Go. I can defend you. The world is placed under my control. You are weak, I am strong. You will encounter danger and trouble, but I can defend you. You may die, yet because I live, the work will be accomplished. Teach all nations — The meaning is make disciples of. This was to be done by teaching, and baptizing. This gracious commission was to go to all nations. The Jews expected the blessings of Jesus to be just for them. But God loves all mankind. He desires every one in every nation to be saved. Baptizing them... A picture of the new birth. It symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. It symbolizes the believer to live a new life in Jesus. It symbolizes devoting them to God. In The Name... To baptize in the name of the Trinity is to be bound to love, serve, and obey Him. The mention of these three names proves that the Son, Holy Spirit and Father are equal and one.

V-20 I am with you... By My Spirit I will strengthen, help and guide you. He will be with us till the end of time.

A thought... Henry Martyn said,

"The Spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions, and the nearer we get to Him the more intensely missionary we must become."

A "bloc" is a minority group often led by a blockhead.

Some people have a head just like a door — anybody can turn it.

Life and Work Lesson

God's Bold Plan

By James L. Heflin, pastor
FBC, Greenville
Genesis 12:1-3; John 3:16;
Matthew 28:18-20;
II Corinthians 5:18-20

This week we begin a series of four lessons focusing on biblical teachings about witness. We do so with a prayer that God will use the lessons to compel us to greater efforts to witness than we have ever made.

Witnessing is no option for the Christian. "Ye shall be my witnesses," said Jesus. "Knowing this we must be about our business of telling the world about Christ. Southern Baptists are serious about this command of our Lord. We believe in God's plan to carry the gospel to the world (also outlined in Acts 1:8). Our convention has adopted the Bold Mission Thrust, a program to carry out God's Bold Plan. We are aware that it is not our plan; it is God's. We are trying to be bold in carrying out his plan. The Thrust serves as a constant reminder to us that we are committed to world missions. This is no mere slogan. This is the way God wants to extend the kingdom to all people.

I. Begins with a call (Gen. 12:1-3) God's plan to bless every person on earth began when he called Abram. God works through people, so he needed people to cooperate with him in his great purpose for the world.

From the beginning God required Abram to go. He commanded him to leave his homeland, his kinsfolk, his own household and to go into a new land (v.1).

The call to missions is rarely an easy one to answer. Abram faced the challenge of going to a place he had never seen. God did not even give him the name of the land. He had to know that Abram's commitment was total. Faith in God was all Abram would have.

With God's call came a promise (v. 2). God declared that he would make Abram and his descendants a great nation. Bearing his great name and purpose would make them a great people.

Next, God promised to bless Abram and make his name great. What greater prospect could a man have than that? Often when we pray we ask God's blessing. How do you think Abram felt when God declared: "I will bless thee"? God was asking for a great commitment, but, at the same

time, he promised to bless the one he called.

Abram, now known as Abraham, is called the Father of the Faith. God has kept his word. He always does. He gave Abram a great name. It is a household word to all men of faith.

Moreover, God promised that Abram himself would be a blessing. A blessing is something good bestowed on someone. To know that your life is a blessing increases the joy of every believer. "Make me a channel of blessing," we sing and pray. God will do it.

Finally, God assured Abram of protection. For those who blessed Abram, there would be a blessing (v. 3). Those who cursed Abram would meet the wrath of God. By protecting and establishing Abraham God would assure that the families of the earth would be blessed through him.

The call of God has with it the assurance that he will see to his purpose. Never fear to heed this call; he will be with you. His purpose is to bring good to others through you. He asks you to cooperate with him in the accomplishment of that purpose.

II. Based on God's love (John 3:16) John 3:16 speaks for itself. This verse stands out in the mountain range of Scripture as the highest of the high peaks. Some have called it "The Gospel in a Nutshell." Others have said that there is enough gospel in this verse to save every lost person in the world.

This is indeed the heart of the gospel; it is the expression of God's great love. The love God has for sinners is a self-giving, self-sacrificing, self-declaring love. It is not based on our worth. God loves us because he is interested in us.

Several truths stand out in John 3:16. God loves us. That is the basis of it all. How amazing it is that God loves us, even though we are sinners. He gave his Son to save us. Christ laid down his own life. This great salvation can be yours and mine by believing and giving ourselves to him.

This is our message as we go to the world. God's love is real. He has expressed his love through his own Son, who came into the world to rescue us from perishing. This is the message we need this message of love and redemption.

III. Built on a specific pattern (Matthew 28:18-20) When Jesus left this earth he en-

trusted his mission to the disciples. This passage lies at the very heart of the Bold Mission Thrust.

Assuming that we will go (v. 18), this is the pattern we follow: Make disciples. Disciples are followers of Jesus Christ. Our commission is to win men to faith in Christ.

Include all men of all nations. The stated goal of Bold Mission Thrust is to present every person on earth the message of salvation by the year 2000. Each person, then, will have the opportunity to respond to Jesus in faith. Teach the converts. A disciple is more than a follower; he is a learner. We are instructed to teach men all the things that Christ has commanded us (v. 19).

Christ also gave a promise. He declared that he would be with his disciples. Their road of service, as they went out to witness, would be a hard one to travel at times. Jesus promised to be with them (and us).

We are not in this effort alone. Our Lord goes with us. His presence has no time limit. "I am with you always" (v. 20). Courage to witness comes from that great promise.

IV. Brings men to Himself (II Corinthians 5:18-20)

God has brought us to himself. To "reconcile" means to bring back to together that which has been separated. His method was to bring us through his Son Jesus. Those who have been reconciled now have a responsibility to bring others. He has given us his ministry of reconciliation (v. 18).

Repetition is one of the primary tools of instruction. By repeating the nature of our ministry Paul underscored its importance to us (v. 9).

Now we are ambassadors. "An ambassador is one who represents the person of a king in the court of another," we learned as Royal Ambassadors. Christians have royal rank. God bestows (urges) others by or through us (v. 20). "In Christ's stead" means that we come in behalf of him. We pray and work that others also may come to God. That is our mission.

God calls us, loves us, commissions us, and makes us responsible to bring others to Him. This is his plan. It is the only one that will last. If it will not get done, let us claim his promises and march into the world to bring men the message of salvation, thereby accomplishing God's plan.